

No. 66,057

http://www.the-times.co.uk

SHOCK AT THE OPERA

Rodney Milnes
on a startling
Barber of
Seville
PAGE 39

AT HABITAT THIS CHRISTMAS

20% discount
TOKEN PAGE 21

WHEN WIFE AND MISTRESS GANG UP

PAGE 21



NIGELLA LAWSON

Divorce,
boarding
schools and
fussy eating
PAGE 21

EU rebate funds £20 fuel handout

Brown bonus for the old and young

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN sweetened an austere message on pay and spending yesterday with a surprise £400 million to help pensioners with winter fuel bills. And he tried to defuse a backbench revolt by promising single parents £300 million for the founding of child care clubs for a million children.

The populist announcements came in the Chancellor's first draft Budget aimed at ending some of the secrecy surrounding the real thing.

Through an unexpected switch of funds some £400 million saved from Britain's planned payments to the European Union budget will fund every pensioner household £20 extra to help with their fuel bills this winter and next, regardless of the weather. Elderly people on income support will get £50.

In what he called the biggest ever investment in child care some 30,000 new out-of-school clubs, providing places for nearly a million children over five years, are to be set up and 50,000 young people are to be offered training as childcare workers through the Government's welfare-to-work.

Most of the £300 million cost will be met eventually from the National Lottery's new opportunities fund for health and education projects.

Ministers spent the week-end working on the plan which has been accelerated because of the deep unease among Labour MPs about planned £11-a-week cuts in lone parent benefits which are saving some £200 million.

There were indications last night that Mr Brown had gone some way to meeting backbench concern.

In another announcement

INSIDE

Matthew Parris 2
Anatole Kaletsky 10
Childcare plan 11
Chancellor's speech 12
Peter Riddell 13
Leading article 23
ACT abolished 27
State of the nation 28
Commentary 29
Stock market 30

brought forward from the Budget, VAT on home insulation grants is being cut from 17.5 per cent to 5 per cent, a move that Mr Brown said will benefit some 40,000 homes.

The Chancellor also announced that corporation tax would be cut by another 1 per cent in 1999 to 30 per cent—a disclosure designed to help industry plan ahead.

He made clear that advance corporation tax would be abolished in April 1999, with companies moving over to a system of paying corporation tax by quarterly instalments from that date, a change the Conservatives later claimed would cost business £2 billion a year.

Promising the integration of tax and benefits Mr Brown confirmed that he was considering the introduction of tax credits for working families on low incomes, a system thought to be similar to the American earned income tax credits.

Mr Brown delivered a strong warning to the unions to be moderate. He said: "It is in no one's interest if today's pay rise threatens to become tomorrow's mortgage rise." It would, he said, be the worst form of short-termism to pay ourselves more today at the cost of fewer jobs tomorrow and lower living standards in the very near future.

He said that "wage respon-

sibility" was a price worth paying to achieve jobs and prosperity in the long-term. And he hammered home his message by revealing that he had met the heads of the public sector review bodies, which recommend pay of doctors, nurses, and millions of public sector workers, to spell out "the choices before us."

He made it plain that he expected bosses to set an example: "in the interests of all there must be moderation not excess and where an example should be set."

Mr Brown spoke for just 30 minutes and there were none of the detailed tax and spending announcements that characterise the Budget. The Commons was only about two thirds full.

Mr Brown maintained the Chancellor's right of springing a surprise with his package for pensioners. He had emphasised the Government's record on helping pensioners with fuel bills by highlighting the July Budget's cuts in VAT on fuel and heating.

"At the moment, although the poorest do get some help through cold weather payments, these payments only go to those on income support and they generally have to wait until after the cold weather until help is available."

To Labour cheers he said the Government was "simply not prepared to allow another winter to go by when pensioners are fearful of turning up their heating because they do not know whether they will have the help they need." There will also be a series of pilot projects designed to encourage an improved benefits take-up by the poorest pensioners.

Mr Brown again committed himself to a tax starting rate of 10p in the pound but not to the

Continued on page 2, col 1



Homework under way for seven and eight-year-olds at the William Wilberforce after-school club in Clapham, South London, yesterday

Clubs where children learn and play

By MARK HENDERSON

CHILDREN at the William Wilberforce after-school club in Clapham, South London, can do their homework, play or just run around until their parents collect them when they have finished work.

The centre is run privately and costs £35 a week with trained childminders collecting about 20 children from several schools near by.

The Chancellor's announcement yesterday of a £300 million investment in such clubs would create a national network.

The cash would be used for start-up costs and most parents would still have to pay, but less well-off families will be subsidised and the poorest will get free care, under current benefit arrangements.

More than 150,000 children aged between 5 and 12 now attend the 3,500 after-school clubs, but only 2 per cent of



children have access to the clubs or a holiday playscheme, despite rapidly growing demand from working parents. In Sweden, where such schemes have run successfully for decades, more than 45 per cent of children have a place. Under existing schemes,

parents pay between £15 and £40 to have their children collected from school by a trained childminder and looked after until they get back from work. Some centres open early in the morning.

Other groups offer all-day clubs during the school holidays, usually costing about £35 to £40 a week, which organise activities and day trips.

Roger and Christine Paxton, both civil servants, drop their children Katie, 8, and Frances, 6, at the William Wilberforce Centre before school and pick them up at 6pm. "The overwhelming benefit is that it allows both of us to work, but it also provides a stimulating atmosphere for the children to have a quiet time for homework and some letting loose, running around and causing mayhem," Mr Paxton said.

Anthony Jackson, a cash and credit official at House of Fraser, said his daughters

Esther, 9, and Ruth, 6, had improved greatly at school since they started at the club.

"The teachers at their school are very happy with the club because it is not just a play centre, it is more play-as-you-learn," he said, adding: "They get an extra education, with a French club, and regular trips out to the library as well as a chance to have fun with their friends."

Anne Longfield, director of the Kids' Clubs Network, a London-based charity which represents after-school play-schemes, said the Chancellor was right to invest in the groups. "We believe there is at least demand for an after-school club for each of Britain's 25,000 primary schools, and he plans to set up 30,000,"

she said. "It is a fantastic day for children and working parents."

She expects the 30,000 new clubs to be attached to primary schools, where costs could be kept low, facilities already existed and demand was greatest. The investment would help to offset costs that could be prohibitive for poorer parents, she said.

Joanne Charman, a play worker at the club, said it allowed parents peace of mind. "The children are picked up at 3.30, they get a hot meal and the chance to socialise and also get started on their homework," she said. "They stay off the streets and out of trouble, and get loads of opportunities to learn and have fun."

Denning, OM

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who is 88, has been appointed to the Order of Merit. Other new members are Sir Norman Foster and Sir Denis Rokeby. Page 9

Guard for Adams

The Sinn Féin MPs, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness are being offered taxpayer-funded protection after a government decision to admit the party to a programme that guards public figures. Page 2

TV & RADIO	50-51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26-52
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
SIMON JENKINS	22
ARTS	34-36
CHESS & BRIDGE	29
COURT & SOCIAL	24
SPORT	45-52
HOMES	39
LAW REPORT	41

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$10.00 per 100
Canada \$12.50 per 100
Czechia 100.00 per 100
Cyprus £1.20 per 100
Denmark 100.00 per 100
Finland 100.00 per 100
France 100.00 per 100
Germany 100.00 per 100
Greece 100.00 per 100
Italy 100.00 per 100
Japan 100.00 per 100
Korea 100.00 per 100
Malaysia 100.00 per 100
Mexico 100.00 per 100
Morocco 100.00 per 100
Netherlands 100.00 per 100
Norway 100.00 per 100
Poland 100.00 per 100
Portugal 100.00 per 100
Spain 100.00 per 100
Sweden 100.00 per 100
Switzerland 100.00 per 100
USA \$15.00 per 100



Pupils fail to make the grade at 14

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST half of 14-year-olds fail to make the grade in history, geography and technology, according to the first results published for every national curriculum subject.

Achievement in information technology was particularly low, with only 18 per cent of 14-year-olds doing better than was expected for their age.

There was also further evidence of boys far behind girls, with 62 per cent of girls but just 50 per cent of boys reaching the expected level in history. Similar gaps appear in geography, design and modern languages.

Results for eight subjects were published yesterday, based on teachers' own assessment of their pupils' progress this summer.

They followed the results of national tests in September in the "core" subjects, which show 56 per cent of 14-year-olds reached level five or better in English and 60 per cent in both mathematics and science. Children at 14 are expected to be between levels five and six of the national curriculum.

Yesterday's results showed just 50 per cent reached level five in information technology, 56 per cent in history and in design technology, 58 per cent in geography and 59 per cent in modern foreign languages.

Level five or better was recorded in art by 73 per cent, music (61 per cent) and physical education (71 per cent).

Level six was reached by 28 per cent of 14-year-olds in

history, 29 per cent in geography, 23 per cent in design and just 18 per cent in IT.

Ministers welcomed the figures for children reaching level five at 14 as reaching "expected" levels. A spokesman for Estelle Morris, a Schools Standards Minister, insisted that level five and six were both acceptable for 14-year-olds.

However David Hawker, head of curriculum and assessment at the Qualifications and Assessment Authority, said: "Strictly speaking, pupils should be between levels five and six because they should be going forward at the pace of one level every two years from level four at 11."

The QCA would send schools further guidance on how to help improvement in IT and for boys generally, he said. "Certainly we will be looking for improvement in future years. I would not want to put a figure on it, but a substantial proportion of pupils should be at level five."

Business leaders said pupils had to do "far better", especially in IT.

The Institute of Management said IT skills were now as important as basic literacy and numeracy.

A spokesman added: "We will have to do far better in this area, because this is where companies are investing, and where future competitiveness lies. We will be looking for a significant improvement in achievement in tests in years to come."

Sainsbury attacked by bomber

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE self-styled 'Mardi Gras' bomber targeted two Sainsbury's stores yesterday in his campaign to extort cash from businesses. One device exploded but no-one was injured.

The bomber has planted at least 30 devices since 1994. He originally targeted Barclays Bank but turned on Sainsbury's last year. He has also threatened Tesco's.

Yesterday one of the devices exploded on the driveway of a dilapidated home in Red Hill, Chislehurst, Kent, about 500 yards from a Sainsbury's store and near a primary school. It may have been left with a note asking for it to be returned to the store. A blackened cassette box was found by patrolling police officers.

The second device was hidden in a Sainsbury's bag of groceries found in a bus stop at Lee Green in Lewisham, south London. A woman took the bag into a Sainsbury's but staff became alarmed when they saw the cassette and called police.

Two weeks ago three devices were left outside supermarkets in Greenford and West Ealing, west London. One shopper was slightly injured. The incendiaries were hidden inside video cassette boxes with a message that a reward would be paid.

Saddam 'could kill everyone on Earth'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United Nations believes that Saddam Hussein may have produced enough of the deadly VX chemical weapon to kill everyone on Earth, William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

"Originally, the Iraqis indicated they had just a small quantity of VX. One drop on your finger will produce death in a matter of a few moments. Now, the UN believes that Saddam may have produced as much as 200 tons. And this, theoretically, would be enough to kill every man, woman and child on the face of the Earth."

Mr Cohen accused Iraq of continuing to deceive UN weapons inspectors as the Pentagon disclosed that Saddam's intelligence agents had spied on the inspection teams both this year and last.

Presenting a military report on the international threat of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons proliferation, Mr Cohen pointedly contested suggestions by Russia that inspections end quickly: that Iraq be declared disarmed; and that sanctions be eased.

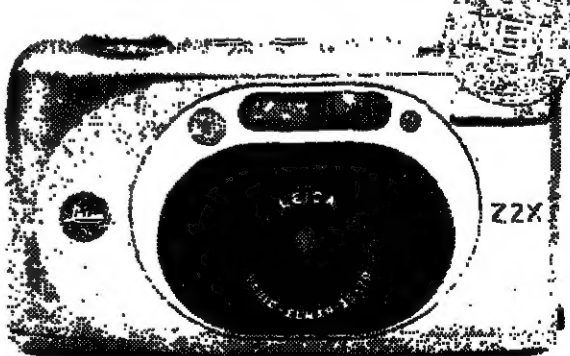
"Iraq continues to evade and deceive United Nations inspectors who are working to destroy Iraq's programme to build these weapons of mass destruction. This is a long-term project," Mr Cohen said. Emphasising that the US was still maintaining military action as a last option against continued deception by the Iraqi Government, Mr Cohen said that any future strike would not be a "pinprick".

The Pentagon said it believed that Iraqi agents could eavesdrop electronically on United Nations Special Commission (Unscom) teams and said that Unscom members may be under surveillance both at the UN in New York and during trips to Baghdad.

American U2 spy planes have provided evidence that the Iraqis often knew of the inspections, moving swiftly to hide caches of weapons. Ken Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, said: "The missions have from time to time been compromised. Unscanned does not announce its targets in advance but the Iraqis have found a way to figure out where they're going."

The Pentagon believes this may provide an explanation for Iraq's threats to shoot down the U2 flights on the day Baghdad barred Americans from inspection teams.

The time is right to get yourself a Leica.



Look for the LEICA red spot - your guarantee of quality that's recognised the world over.

LEICA is now pleased to offer the NEW LEICA Z2X, a handy, fully automatic 35mm viewfinder camera.

Small, light and elegant, the Z2X has additional manual functions and with its computed 35-70mm LEICA VARIO-ELMAR zoom lens, guarantees first class image quality.

The LEICA Z2X - from around £229 RRP.

Available at your LEICA dealer now.

LEICA
Passion and Precision

For further information please complete and send the coupon to Leica Camera Ltd, P.O. Box 1104, Milton Keynes, MK11 8BH. Telephone 01908 246300 for literature or 01908 688888 for general and service enquiries. Please tick box: LEICA Z2X ☐

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____

Tory bunnies caught in the beam of Brown's juggernaut

As Gordon Brown spoke yesterday, the Tory benches stared at him as if mesmerised. These were not the massed ranks of a well-armed Opposition spoiling for the fight. They were more like a bunch of rabbits, frozen in the headlights of an oncoming political juggernaut.

That the Chancellor appeared to have nothing of importance to say — or that the Shadow Chancellor, Peter Lilley, brought a prickly little list of questions to which Mr Brown seemed to have few answers — hardly mattered. What mattered was command. Brown had command.

The Tories have lost it. When the Chancellor spoke his own side cheered — and the Opposition fell silent. When Lilley spoke Labour just laughed.

Gordon Brown's presentational skills have been transformed over the last year. He used to be boring and deafening; now he is just boring. He used to thunder; now he just rumbles. He used to sound positively suicidal; now he just sounds faintly grumpy. He used to seem gripped by some black and fathomless internal rage; now he just looks crossed.

Joking apart, the Chancellor's delivery is more deft than



POLITICAL SKETCH

once it was. He has learned a lighter touch and stopped thumping the table. Most important, he sounds confident and sure of his ground.

He sounded so yesterday. Mr Brown has his favourite phrases, and they were brandished with aplomb. "Boom and bust," was repeated three times with a sort of presbyterian foreboding, hitting the boom with resonance and the bust with relish. Another favourite — "when it is prudent to do so" — was delivered in the oak-lined, copper-bottomed tones of a Scottish mutual society's senior fund-manager, though the effect here was somewhat marred by Mr Brown's placing one hand on his rump, elbow out, in the "I'm-a-little-teapot" pose he has an unwitting habit of adopting.

And there is a problem with the Chancellor's pronunciation

of "prudence". In his gulped delivery the word sounds like "prunes". Thus, his next remark to the Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, confused us: "Let me remind him," roared Brown, "what his own leader said about fiscal prunes." We scratched our heads. The Chancellor explained further. "So here is the Leader of the Liberal Party saying there had to be fiscal prunes."

But, like some latter-day emperor, the effect of Mr Brown is to stun us all into silence — and if he seems to have no clothes, we are not so

impatient as to mention it. How else could the Chancellor have got away yesterday with taunting Peter Lilley over his party's defeat at the Winchester by-election last week? "From two, to minus 22,000," he jeered — of the Tories' lost majority. Labour fell about. The Opposition fell silent.

But (as Malcolm Bruce timely reminded us some time later) it was to the Liberal Democrats that the Tories lost. Labour's vote fell from six thousand to nine hundred, their lowest share of the vote since the war. Not that this bothered Brown. "They are

not fit to make their presence felt in this House..." he boomed at cowering Liberals. "They should go back to their constituencies and prepare to adapt to reality."

That (to Labour cheers) Gordon Brown could trumpet the Winchester result at the Tories without a squeak of protest, then tear a strip off the party which actually won Winchester, is a measure both of his command, and Opposition demoralisation. As Brown swung his beam off the benches opposite, and swept from the Chamber, fifty rabbits scuttled for the hedgerows.

not fit to make their presence felt in this House..." he boomed at cowering Liberals. "They should go back to their constituencies and prepare to adapt to reality."

That (to Labour cheers) Gordon Brown could trumpet the Winchester result at the Tories without a squeak of protest, then tear a strip off the party which actually won Winchester, is a measure both of his command, and Opposition demoralisation. As Brown swung his beam off the benches opposite, and swept from the Chamber, fifty rabbits scuttled for the hedgerows.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hindley is condemned by Brady

Ian Brady, who is serving life for the Moors murders, has accused his accomplice, Myra Hindley, of "marginalising her role in the killings of two victims as part of her attempt to gain freedom. He has condemned her attempts to get parole as "synthetic innocence" designed to trick the gullible.

In a letter to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, Brady says that any decision to give Hindley, 53, parole must be based on facts, rather than the "fable" invented by her supporters. Brady is in Ashworth top security mental hospital at Maghull, Merseyside.

Singer's funeral

Final preparations for the funeral tomorrow of Michael Hutchence, the Australian rock singer, were being made in Sydney yesterday. Relatives, including his father, Kell, visited the city's St Andrew's cathedral to supervise arrangements for the service. The funeral will be broadcast live on Australian television.

Editor returns

Harold Evans, a former editor of *The Times* and president since 1990 of the Random House Trade Group, is returning to newspapers. Mr Evans, 69, will shortly take over as editorial director and vice-chairman of the American newspaper conglomerate owned by Mortimer Zuckerman and Fred Drasner.

EMI being sued

The record company EMI is being sued for £60 million over allegations that it failed to hand over 50 per cent of all royalties for songs such as *Congratulations* by Cliff Richard. The test action may help 1,000 songwriters, all of whom signed with independent music publishers subsequently taken over by EMI.

Soap actor sorry

Sid Owen — Ricky Burcher in the BBC soap *EastEnders* — publicly apologised to his aunt, Carol Sullivan, and paid her "substantial" libel damages, over newspaper allegations that she "ripped him off" when he was a child and that she was his legal guardian. He apologised at the High Court.

Taxpayers to fund the protection of Sinn Fein MPs

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Sinn Fein MPs Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness are being offered taxpayer-funded protection after a government decision to admit the party to a programme that guards public figures from terrorist attacks. Up to 73 Sinn Fein councillors also now plan to apply for protection, a party spokesman said last night.

In another decision that will please republicans, all daytime army foot patrols in West Belfast are to be suspended from today. Sinn Fein leaders, facing grassroots discontent with their "peace strategy", have been demanding "demilitarisation" of this sort since the IRA ceasefire on July 20.

The Sinn Fein representatives will ask the Northern Ireland Office to fortify their homes with bullet and bomb-proof doors and windows, infra-red beams, alarm systems and car booby-trap detectors. As MPs, Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness may also ask for armoured-plated cars and sidearms, a Sinn Fein spokesman said last night.

Sinn Fein's admission to the Key Persons Protection Scheme was greeted with a mixture of outrage and wry amusement by Ulster Unionists, but a big obstacle must be overcome before any representatives of the IRA's political wing — besides its two MPs —

can receive protection. The Royal Ulster Constabulary must assess the threat to each applicant, and Sinn Fein insists it will have nothing to do with the force.

The scheme was established to protect judges, MPs, and others whose assassinations would undermine Northern Ireland's "democratic framework" or the "maintenance of law and order".

Sinn Fein had "joined the democratic process and they should be entitled to protection if their life is under threat," said Mr McGuinness, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

William Hague is facing mounting pressure from Conservatives to step up his attacks on Tony Blair in the wake of the Prime Minister's decision to invite Mr Adams to Downing Street.

Senior backbenchers and at least one former Northern Ireland Secretary are questioning the Conservatives' bipartisan support for the Government because they are furious with Mr Blair for appeasing Sinn Fein.

One senior Tory said: "It is concession after concession to Sinn Fein-IRA."

One source close to the Tory leadership said that Lord Mayhew, the last Northern Ireland Secretary, was co-opted with the Govern-

ment's policy. The source said Lord Mayhew has become so angry he has to be regularly "hosed down".

Past Sinn Fein attempts to get protection were rejected despite several fatal attacks on its officials by loyalist paramilitaries. At that time it overtly supported IRA violence. It presently provides its own crude protection — including very obvious bodyguards — for its leaders, but the Northern Ireland Office signalled its change of policy last week by agreeing to secure the West Belfast home of Alex Maskey, a leading Sinn Fein councillor.

Mr Maskey was seriously injured by a loyalist gunman in 1987 and a workman was shot dead while fortifying his home in 1993. Jim Gibney of Sinn Fein's national executive, called the Maskey decision "a breakthrough".

Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist Party MP, said it was "an absurdity that the people from whom most of the community is having to protect itself should be funded to protect their own hides".

□ Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons, has agreed to meet Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness on December 4 to discuss their renewed request for the use of Westminster's services.

Labour says it can do nothing to stop pit closures

By NICHOLAS WATT AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

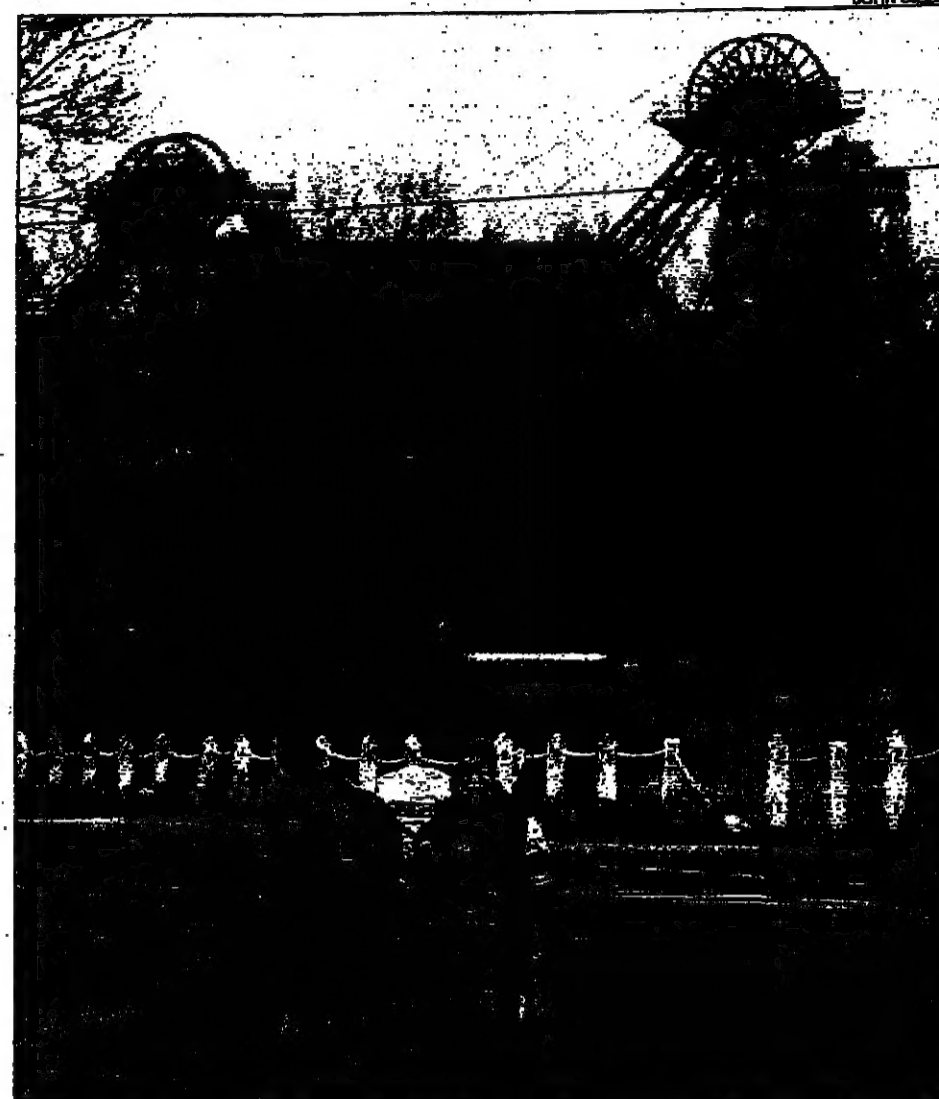
LABOUR admitted yesterday that it is powerless to save thousands of mining jobs which are in jeopardy, raising fears for the long term future of the coal industry.

John Birtle, the Energy Minister, infuriated miners when he said there were "no levers in government hands" to intervene on behalf of miners whose jobs are at risk.

Mr Birtle blamed the Tories for removing the Government's negotiating position when it privatised the industry. He told BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*: "We are not in a negotiating position because the whole of the industry has been privatised. That leaves no levers in Government hands — that's the difficulty. If you say I'm blaming the last Government, that's just the truth of what happened."

His remarks enraged scores of miners who descended on Parliament from across the country yesterday to demand immediate Government action to save the coal industry. At a packed meeting in Parliament Mr Birtle faced a hostile reception from miners who accused him of doing nothing to save the coal industry.

Mr Birtle admitted to the miners that the industry was facing a crisis as he strives to



The mining community in Hatfield Main near Doncaster awaits news of closure.

ensure that coal competes on a level playing field with other sources of energy. He said: "I will fight to defend jobs, but re-nationalising the industry is not an option."

The lobby by the miners, which was organised by the Coalfield Communities Cam-

paign, came after a leaked Department of Trade and Industry paper revealed that ministers are braced for a round of pit closure announcements before Christmas. Up to 5,000 jobs could be lost over the next few months, according to figures

based on DTI estimates submitted to the European Commission when contracts between RJB Mining — Britain's biggest producer of coal — and the electricity generators expire.

John Birtle, page 31

Lessons about drug abuse work, study shows

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN taught about cocaine and marijuana at the age of eight are far less likely to smoke or try illegal drugs as young teenagers, Home Office researchers said yesterday.

The names and characteristics of common illegal drugs were discussed with primary school children as part of Project Charlie, an American scheme to tackle drug-taking. Details of the research were published as it was disclosed that a nursery school in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne uses a puppet called Dipsi to begin drugs awareness among three and four-year-olds.

All the children in the Home Office study went through a programme of lessons and role-playing to build self-esteem and resist peer group pressure. Details of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, were introduced at the end of the year-long course. Four years after the weekly sessions for eight, nine and ten-year-olds, 30 per cent said they had tried a cigarette, compared to 71 per cent of those who not on the project. Four-fifths of children in both categories had tried an alcoholic drink, but just 5 per cent of youngsters on the course admitted taking a drug, compared with 14 per cent of their peers.

George Howarth, a Home Office Minister, said he would pass the findings to Keith Hellawell, the Government's "drugs czar".

MP accuses trusts of lying to ombudsman

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITAL trusts were accused yesterday of lying to the Health Service Ombudsman in order to cover up their mistakes. Rhodi Morgan, MP for Cardiff West, made the claim when he chaired a meeting of the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration.

"Trusts keep telling fibs," he said. "This is something which keeps going on. They have no hesitation in trying to flim it up or tell outright lies."

The committee was hearing about two cases where hospitals had not given accurate answers to Michael Buckley,

the Health Service Ombudsman, about the way they dealt with complaints. In one, at Newham, in east London, the hospital had failed to answer five letters from a son asking why his father died three hours after he was discharged from hospital.

In the other, Addenbrooke's, in Cambridge, a woman waited seven months for the hospital to make an eye-assessment appointment for her somewhere else and then waited over a year to be told what went wrong. Keith Day, the hospital's administrative director, confessed to the com-

mittee that this could be due to "Addenbrooke's arrogance", with the world-famous teaching hospital failing to pay attention to what seemed to be such a minor complaint.

The Newham case, Mr Morgan said, was especially bad. "If any scriptwriter for *Casualty* had written this type of script, it would have been thrown out as too far-fetched."

The Ombudsman found that one morning in 1994 a locum doctor at the hospital had seen a man brought in man suffering from chest pains. At 5am, after two electro-cardiograms the doctor discharged him and he died at home about three hours later.

His son wrote to the hospital in October 1994 and was sent four holding letters, addressed to his father, over the next six months. It was only the following April that he received a substantive reply and an explanation that the delay was due to the fact the consultant in charge of the accident and emergency department has been trying, in vain, to trace the locum doctor. This excuse, in fact, was untrue as John Myers, the consultant concerned, claimed never to have seen the letters of complaint.

The hospital's deputy business manager and nursing director told the Ombudsman that five letters from the complainant had been sent on to the consultant for answer and his secretary had been asked to ensure there was a reply. The consultant, John Myers, said he had never seen them.

Hospitals to publish costs league tables

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEAGUE tables showing how much hospitals charge for different treatments and services are to be published as part of a new strategy for forcing costs down in the National Health Service.

The idea will be put forward in a White Paper to be published at the beginning of next month, spelling out how efficiency savings can help to keep the NHS budget down. At present there can be differences of over 20 per cent in the cost of identical treatments in different hospitals serving similar populations in com-

parable areas. The tables will include definitions of what the different treatments should be, whether or not they should include pre-assessment and aftercare and what the patient should be able to expect from the medical procedures.

The White Paper proposes scrapping the present efficiency index, by which hospitals are judged against their cost and patient throughput. The idea is to replace this with criteria designed to show how well hospitals succeed in improving the health of their patients. Targets will be disclosed in the Public Health Green Paper due in January.

Brown promises bonuses for young and old

Continued from page 1

timing of its introduction. He also promised further reforms for the low paid in the shape of changes to the National Insurance contributions system, new bus and rail passes for youngsters, seeking work and projects to train the young and long-term unemployed by offering them grants of £1,700 and £1,500.

The pre-Budget report published alongside Mr Brown's statement gives a clear hint that the next Budget will include a range of "green" taxes. It says that Mr Brown will return to "transport tax" issues after the forthcoming world inter-

national environment conference. A big clampdown on tax avoidance was promised and the Chancellor also underscored Treasury warnings at the weekend that slackening the tough regime of tight fiscal and public spending controls would trigger boom and bust.

He admitted that the Government's deficit had fallen from 4.5 per cent of national income just two years ago to 1.5 per cent this year with a view to 0.75 per cent in 1998-9. But he said: "There is a risk that the structural deficit... may turn out to be larger. So we will be both cautious and prudent. And we will learn: the

lessons of 1988 when it was wrongly assumed the structural deficit had disappeared and the penalty was the return of boom and bust."

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, said he welcomed the good economic news which he said was the "golden economic legacy which we bequeathed this Government" and added: "They are the fruits of 18 years of Conservative reforms, every one of which the Chancellor opposed." Mr Lilley claimed the figures published by the Chancellor showed that the tax increases in the July Budget were unnecessary.

Peter was desperate to save money on a new Vauxhall.

We told him where to go.

miles better

Up to £2,500 off a new Vauxhall, just for using his GM Card. Peter could hardly contain himself.

He was even more excited when we told him that Cardholders can earn double the usual Rebate Points at The GM Card Partners: Best Western Hotels, Going Places and Avis.

Because that means you get 6% of whatever you spend as Rebate Points, which convert straight into pounds off your next car (instead of the already generous 3% you collect on other GM Card purchases).

And if you haven't got a GM Card? Go straight to the coupon below.

For a GM Card Application Form call 0345 462777 quoting GK3 or return the coupon below to: The GM Card, FREEPOST, SEA 2953, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey KT2 6BR.

For a GM Card Application Form, simply fill in your details and return the coupon to the address above (no stamp necessary).

Title/Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms/Other: _____ Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Home telephone number: _____

Written quotations available on request from The GM Card, PO Box 2615, Birmingham B1 2JU. Credit is available to persons aged 18 and over and resident in the UK (or 21 and over in the Channel Islands) and is subject to status and conditions. Rebate Points are earned on purchases using The GM Card. Additionally, Rebate Points are earned on such purchases at GM Card Partners (except for Travelers). Cheques and currency changed. UK Best Western Hotels (excluding hotels in Ireland and except for Heavyweight Cheques, vouchers, GICs and cash withdrawals), but including non-commercially owned hotels or group bookings when booked centrally through Best Western Conference Sales Office and paid with The GM Card and Avis outlets in the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Monaco and Andorra. You can earn up to 2,500 Rebate Points and selected Partner Points which are redeemable as discounts on new Vauxhall vehicles and must be redeemed within five years of issue. Rebate Points may not be redeemed by Mobility Contract Hire customers. Rebate Points are not earned on Balance Transfers and Cash Advances. The Rebate Points Programme (including Partner Points) is the sole responsibility of Vauxhall Motors Ltd and is subject to the Rebate Points Programme Rules. The GM Card is issued by VPC Bank plc. Details above correct at time of going to press.

Council cleared over TV footage

... ..

Football pie contest

... ..

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hindley is condemned by Brady

Singer's funeral

Editor returns

MI being sued

Actor on

Spencer says wife would squander millions

Lawyers promise further revelations about earl's adultery, report Inigo Gilmore and Daniel McGrory



Earl Spencer: has offered £300,000

LAWYERS for Earl Spencer yesterday claimed that his estranged wife, Victoria, would "squander" the £3.75 million divorce settlement she is demanding.

Countess Spencer stared across the Cape Town courtroom at her husband as his legal team argued that, because of her drink and drug problems and her treatment for anorexia, she could not cope with such a sum of money.

During the second day of an increasingly acrimonious hearing, lawyers for Lady Spencer warned there were yet more damning revelations to come about her husband's alleged infidelities. The earl, brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, has already been branded a "serial adulterer" who told his wife that he had affairs with up to a dozen women in five months while she was in a

clinic fighting alcoholism and eating disorders.

Her lawyers say that in a letter to one of his mistresses, the earl confessed to being "vicious, cruel and a bully" towards the former model. Outside the court, a spokesman for Lord Spencer said he intended to "strenuously deny" what he called sensational allegations.

The couple sat at opposite ends of a wooden bench in court 17, listening to Lord Spencer's lawyer, Leslie Weinke, argue that Lady Spencer's recovery programme meant she had to live for one day at a time. There is a question mark over her ability to handle such an award. Lord Spencer has offered his 32-year-old wife £300,000 in settlement.

This hearing is to determine whether the divorce case should ultimately be heard in British or

South African courts. Lady Spencer has argued that it should be heard in Britain because the couple are British nationals and the bulk of Lord Spencer's assets are here.

The court was told that Lord Spencer, 33, had a personal fortune of £6 million, plus a family fortune worth £100 million; his annual income after tax was £500,000. He believes a British court would award his estranged wife a settlement that "far exceeds" what she needs to live on with their four children in South Africa.

They also referred yesterday to Lady Spencer's 18-month liaison with Guy Woods, a 26-year-old pharmacist. Mr Weinke suggested any settlement would be more difficult to manage if the couple were to marry or have children. Her lawyers told the judge that the £300,000 Lord

Spencer was offering could not hope to buy a decent house in London.

Jeremy Posnansky, a British family law expert and one of Lady Spencer's witnesses, told the judge: "I'm not an estate agent but I personally think £300,000 would only get a house in a very unattractive, distant suburb with problems perhaps of crime."

Asked by the judge, Mr Justice Ian Farlam, if the Isle of Dogs in London might be the sort of place where a house could be bought in that price range, Mr Posnansky replied with a smile: "The Isle of Dogs is quite fashionable now."

Lord Spencer, dressed in a dark suit and checked shirt, chewed his pen as he listened to his wife's lawyer warning there were more revelations to come about his private life. During a tense exchange with Lord

Spencer's barrister, Jeremy Gauntlett, Lady Spencer's lawyer, told the judge: "The misconduct has so far been outlined only, but there is more detail of a very serious kind and if it has to be drawn out, so be it."

Sitting ten feet away in a black jumper and black skirt, Lady Spencer smiled and chatted with members of her legal team as details of her £3.75 million claim was raked over by experts. Apart from the lump sum payment, she is asking for a house in both England and South Africa, and a car. Lord Spencer is offering a maintenance payment that reflects the lower cost of living in South Africa.

Last night, Lord Spencer was seeking a court injunction to stop the South African press from reporting the proceedings, which continue today.



Countess Spencer: is demanding £3.75m

Supergrass names 'Guerin's killers'

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE investigative journalist Veronica Guerin was killed because she refused to withdraw assault charges against a man at the centre of a Dublin drug-dealing operation, a court was told yesterday.

Ireland's first supergrass said yesterday that he prepared the gun that was used and saw the weapon when the hitman returned from the murder.

Charles Bowden told Dublin Special Criminal Court that he heard three men discuss plans to shoot the 36-year-old reporter. He said the attack was in revenge for the journalist's decision to bring assault charges against a Dublin drug dealer. It was the second time that the gang had attacked the journalist, who wrote extensively about Dublin criminals.

Bowden, who is the first Irish criminal to turn against his associates to give state evidence under a new witness protection scheme, said that the 357 Magnum pistol and 12 "dum-dum" bullets used in the murder had been smuggled into Ireland with a consignment of camels.

He said that he had heard the three men discuss Ms Guerin's appearance at a Kil-

dare court on June 26 last year. Ms Guerin was shot at least five times by a pillion passenger on a motorcycle that pulled up beside her car as she returned from the court.

Bowden, who said he was not "heavy stuff", told the court he believed the plan was to injure Ms Guerin. He did not expect the gang to kill her. "Just shot or shot at; as had happened on a previous occasion. Intimidated, in other words," he said.

Bowden, 32, has been given unconditional and irrevocable immunity from prosecution



Guerin shot as she drove away from court

for the murder of Ms Guerin. A former soldier, he was jailed for six years last month for drugs and firearms offences. He appeared in court yesterday amid tight security and wearing a bullet-proof vest. The court ordered that none of the people he referred to should be identified, because of other proceedings in the Guerin murder case.

The supergrass was giving evidence on the fifth day of the trial of Patrick Holland, 58, of Brittas Bay, Co Wicklow, who denies possession of cannabis for sale or supply between October 1, 1995, and October 6, 1996. Holland was arrested at Dun Laoghaire ferry port last April by a Garda who believed that he killed Ms Guerin.

The hearing continues. In Amsterdam, Brian Meehan, 31, yesterday contested his extradition to Ireland where he faces trial for alleged involvement in Ms Guerin's murder.

Irish police allege that Meehan drove the motorcycle that pulled up alongside Ms Guerin's car. Meehan told the Dutch court that he was innocent and, because of extensive media coverage, would not get a fair trial in Ireland. Judges will decide on his extradition on December 9.



THIS rare glass cup from the time of the Emperor Nero fetched £496,500 yesterday at Christie's, where it had a special family link for the auctioneer's antiquities specialist, Camilla Bridgeman, pictured with it. The 34 in cup is known as the Constable

Maxwell Skypbos after her great-uncle and aunt, Andrew and Nicky Constable-Marwell, who once had it in their collection. It last changed hands for £295,000 in 1986. Yesterday's seller and buyer were anonymous. The finely ornamented drinking cup

dates from the 1st century and shows two charioteers urging on their teams. It possibly belonged to Nero, a keen charioteer and collector of cameo glass. The method used to fuse cut white glass on to the translucent blue of the vessel is still not fully known.

Woodward faces jail in appeal on verdict

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

LOUISE WOODWARD could be returned to prison by the end of next week after an appeal yesterday to the Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts against the British au pair's release.

Prosecution lawyers have asked for a "stay order" against the verdict earlier this month by Judge Hillier B. Zobel, under which Miss Woodward was freed.

If the prosecution is successful she will be returned to prison pending the appeal on the substance of Judge Zobel's decision. A hearing has been scheduled tentatively for December 3.

Stating that Judge Zobel had "abused the broad discretion" accorded to him by the Massachusetts Rules of Criminal Procedure, the prosecution also asked the Court to overrule the verdict.

Judge Zobel is also criticised for transforming the jury verdict of second-degree murder into "what amounted to an acquittal".

The prosecution also argues that Judge Zobel's discarding of the jury's verdict "undermines the very foundation" of the criminal justice system.

Council cleared over TV footage

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities yesterday won the right to distribute closed-circuit television footage to the media after the High Court ruled that a council had the power to release film of a man intent on suicide carrying a knife.

But Mr Justice Harrison called for effective guidance to be issued on the release of footage in an attempt to prevent future "undesirable invasions of privacy".

In a judgment with important implications for civil liberties, the High Court judge ruled that Brentwood Borough Council did not go wrong in law or act irrationally when it provided film copies of Geoffrey Peck, 42, a van driver, to broadcasters.

The film was shown on television, including BBC's *Crime Beat* and on Anglia TV, without Mr Peck's features being properly masked. He was identified by friends and neighbours.

The judge said that, in August 1995, Mr Peck, of Brentwood, was suffering from severe depression and trying to cut his wrists with a kitchen knife, although he was only shown on television walking in the High Street carrying the knife.

At the time, Mr Peck had lost his job and his partner, the mother of his young daughter, had recently been diagnosed as terminally ill.

In his ruling the judge said that the council did have

power to distribute closed-circuit television film to show the public how successful the system was for the prevention and detection of crime in public places.

He added: "However, if I am right and the council does have power to distribute footage, there may on occasions be undesirable invasions of a person's privacy."

"Unless and until there is a general right of privacy recognised by English law - and the indications are, there may soon be by incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into law - reliance must be placed on effective guidance being issued by codes of practice in order to try and stop such undesirable invasions of a person's privacy."

He dismissed Mr Peck's application for judicial review, backed by the pressure group Liberty, but said important lessons could be learned "from this unfortunate incident".

He added: "Maybe with the benefit of hindsight the council will want to see whether they can tighten up their guidelines and seek to avoid a similar incident in the future."

Both the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Standards Commission held that, through human error, there had been infringements of Mr Peck's privacy. Philip Leach, solicitor for Liberty, said an appeal would be considered.

'Judy X' attacker jailed for fraud

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A VIOLENT sex offender who attacked the Conservative Party worker "Judy X" five years ago while posing as a priest was jailed for three years yesterday on three fraud charges involving women.

John Cronin, 26, of Tranent, East Lothian, admitted posing as a businessman, an Irish politician and a doctor to trick women into spending time alone with him in Edinburgh.

His defence claimed that he did it to enhance his self-esteem, but the prosecution alleged that the crimes followed a long and disturbing pattern of behaviour and that he had been sexually motivated. At the time of the offences he was on probation after being convicted in June of causing anxiety and inconvenience to five female Tory party activists.

Sheriff James Farrell's sen-



Cronin: tricked women into private meetings

tence sparked criticism from women's pressure groups because he decided against admitting Cronin to the High Court for a longer sentence and instead gave him the maximum jail term possible in a Sheriff Court, with a year's probation and psychological counselling on his release.

He said that, in view of Cronin's previous convictions, his latest crimes were not just bizarre but "chilling". It was particularly disturbing that Cronin had obtained one woman's name and address while posing as a member of the Jenners family, who run a leading Edinburgh department store.

Cronin became one of Scotland's most notorious criminals five years ago when he was sentenced to life for his attack on the Tory party worker "Judy X". He gained entry to her Edinburgh home by posing as a priest and claiming he wanted to make a donation to the party. He then battered her round the head with a poker, almost throttled her to death and subjected her to a degrading sex attack.

Louise Sharp, legal issues worker at Scotland Women's Aid, said the case should have been referred to the High Court. She said: "This sentence is not long enough. Cronin is a very, very dangerous man and there is a real risk he is going to seriously hurt someone. He is going to reoffend."

Football pie contest leaves sour taste

BY ROBIN YOUNG

PIES sold at the group of Delta Smith's football club may be disqualified from a magazine competition because of a ham-fisted effort to fix the result.

The Norfolk pies of Norwich City, where the cookery writer is a director, are under suspicion after a flood of letters in their support. Handwriting experts have been brought in to analyse the nominations, many in blue ballpoint ink and capital letters, which have put Norwich 250-3 ahead of their nearest rivals, Derby County.

With more letters flooding in every day, the competition organisers are to

hold a disciplinary hearing to decide if the club should be disqualified. They believe many of the nominations come from one fan. Norwich failed to win a single nomination last year.

The competition is organised by *Total Football*, whose editor, Richard Jones, said yesterday: "It would appear there has been a blatant vote-rigging attempt. We will be contacting Delta Smith to see what the club has to say about it."

Merwyn Philpott, the catering manager at Norwich's Carrow Road ground, has the pies made to his recipe and sells them for £1.20. The number of public nominations does not automatically secure victory. Other factors involved in

the judges' decision include price and flavour.

The competition has serious implications for the winner. Last year's champion at the Scottish club, Kilmarnock, scored well in increased sales from his victory. "He had to take on ten extra staff to meet demand, the pies sold out every week, and they had offers from major supermarket chains," Mr Jones said.

A Norwich City director, Roger Munby, said: "I'm quietly confident that, even without the fraudulent entries, we could have reached the pie-offs. I completely deplore that sort of activity. A victory in such circumstances would be hard to swallow."

LANVIN

INTRODUCING THE NEW FRA-GRANCE FOR MEN

LANVIN

THE HOUSE OF FRA-GRANCE

Sports celebrities team up to decide TV 'crown jewels'

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JACK CHARLTON, Steve Cram and Michael Parkinson are to help in deciding which sporting events should be protected for the nation and broadcast free of charge on television.

They are members of a government review body that will assess whether they should add to the existing eight "crown jewel" events. The eight are the Olympic Games, the football World Cup finals, the FA Cup Final, the Scottish FA Cup Final, England cricket Test matches, Wimbledon, the Grand National and the Derby.

If the review body recommends it, they could be joined by other events such as the cricket World Cup, the rugby World Cup, the European Football Championships, the Commonwealth Games, the World Athletics Championships, the British Grand Prix, the Five Nations rugby tour-

namment and two golf events, the Open and the Ryder Cup. A growing number of live events are now covered exclusively by BSkyB, of which News International, the subsidiary of The News Corporation that owns *The Times*, owns 40 per cent.

Yesterday Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said that to be listed, events would have to have "a special national resonance", not just significance to fans of the sport concerned. They were likely to be of pre-eminent national or international importance, to involve the national team, to command a large television audience and to have a long history of free-to-air broadcast.

He said members of the group, chaired by Lord Gordon of Strathblane, chairman of Scottish Radio Holdings, had been chosen to reflect experience in both sport and

broadcasting. "It is a question of getting the right balance between the interests of the viewing public and the sporting bodies themselves who want the best possible value for their sport," he said.

Michael Parkinson, the broadcaster and journalist, is a cricket and football fan. Steve Cram, who held the world mile record and won a gold medal at the 1984 World Athletics Championships, is also now a broadcaster. Jack Charlton has had a distinguished career in football and was in the England team that won the 1966 World Cup.

Other members of the review group are Alastair Burt, former Tory MP for Bury North, Kate Hoey, Labour MP for Vauxhall, Clive Sherling, chairman of the Football Licensing Authority, and Professor David Wallace, Vice-Chancellor of Loughborough University.



Tony Banks, who is expected to head the task force on sports sponsors

Branson joins task force on replacing tobacco sponsors

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON will join a ministerial task force to try to find alternatives to tobacco sponsorship for sports, the Prime Minister told representatives of snooker, golf, ice hockey, darts and angling yesterday.

Despite Tony Blair's commitment to take a "hands-on approach" to raising other sources of money, some of the delegates could not conceal their anger when they left the 45-minute meeting. "We were only allowed across the threshold because of the revelations over Bernie Ecclestone's donation," said Robert Holmes, a spokesman for the British Darts Organisation. In a reference to the Formula One chief's £1,000,000 donation to the Labour Party.

While Mr Ecclestone was granted a meeting with Mr Blair in October, the other sports were given access only to civil servants.

Mr Blair, who was a guest of Mr Ecclestone's at the British Grand Prix in July 1996, is being sent an invitation to the Embassy World Snooker Championships in January. The organisers believe that if Mr Blair could experience the drama of the finals he could become a convert and reconsider the tobacco policy. During the meeting, which was

described by both sides as "friendly and constructive", the Prime Minister was told that, despite the Government's task force, there was already a "crowded marketplace" for sponsorship money.

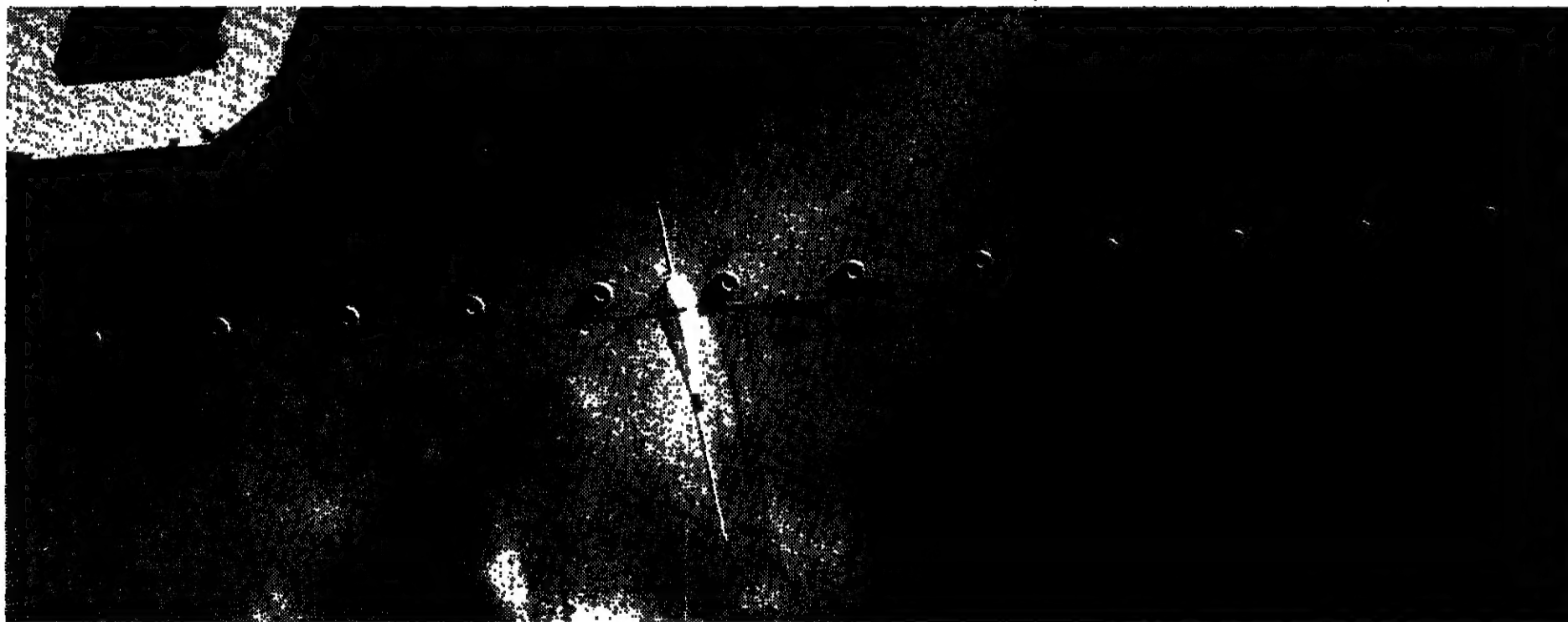
Mr Branson, who is away on business in Japan, will be a key figure on the group which is expected to be headed by Tony Banks, the Sports Minister.

Mr Banks said: "The thing that the Government does not want to do is damage sport, and that is why we want to make sure that sports find a replacement for tobacco sponsorship."

Within minutes of the sports delegation leaving, Mr Blair met representatives of a coalition of 83 health and welfare organisations who demanded that the Government stand firm on its initial policy of a comprehensive ban on health grounds.

Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said: "I cannot believe that people who really care about sport and want to encourage young people to engage in healthy activity really want to take blood money from the merchants of death."

Freephone. An aircraft carrier currently used for fishing trips.



Freephone. How many people realise its full potential? In reality, few things work as hard to grow your business. We should know. It was AT&T who originally invented freephone 30 years ago and who, through constant refinement, made it the uniquely reliable service it is today. Indeed, AT&T now handle well over 20 billion such calls a year. Of course, if your present supplier has neglected to show you just how effective freephone can be, you can't be expected to know what it can do. But thankfully, you're now free to choose a supplier with new ideas. Someone who will sit down with you and work out how freephone can give your business an edge. Switching to AT&T is easy. You can even take your existing freephone number with you. So call us, anytime. We'll show you how AT&T FreePhone Services can really help you attack your business targets.

Call AT&T on 0800 064 8000
or visit our web site at www.att.co.uk

BUSINESS JUST GOT AN EDGE.

26/11/97 In the UK, AT&T FreePhone Services are supplied by AT&T Communications Ltd, LTD



Labour backs Church and State link

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR MP yesterday signalled that the Government would not attempt to disestablish the Church of England, ending months of speculation.

Stuart Bell, who as Second Church Estates Commissioner represents the Church in Parliament, backed the Church's plans to modernise itself and "connect with the people". But he also defended the monarch's position as Supreme Governor of the Church and said that the divorced status of the Prince of Wales represented no bar to his succeeding the Queen.

After addressing the General

Synod to hold unity talks with Methodists

THE General Synod agreed last night to set up talks with Methodist leaders aimed at healing the historic rift between the two denominations (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Although a full merger is unlikely for decades, if ever, the talks could lead to the churches fully recognising the validity of the other's rites and sacraments. In practice, this would mean a Church united from the grass roots upwards.

Proposing that talks begin, the Bishop of Grimsby, the Right Rev David Tustin, said Methodists had felt let down when the synod rejected a unity scheme in 1972. John Wesley (1703-91), the co-founder of Methodism, was a priest in the Church of England and had hoped to the day he died that his followers would remain part of it.

"An immediate scheme of union would be unwise," said Bishop Tustin. "This is not a merger scheme. It is the next step on the way to visible unity." Questions had to be addressed regarding the office of bishop: the Methodist Church does not have bishops in this country, although it does abroad. There were other questions concerning church government and authority.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "We have a common history, not least that we are Churches with a Reformation inheritance, steeped in the Holy Scriptures." He added: "It is a tragedy that our forebears were not able to keep the Methodists within the Church of England."

Before the talks can begin, the move must be debated by the Methodist Conference.

al Synod meeting at Church House, Westminster, Mr Bell, the Labour MP for Middlesbrough, said: "One thing is clear: the Prime Minister has given every indication that there will not be disestablishment of the Church."

"We believe that what we must do with the Church of England is to bring it up to date. If the Church, royalty and State modernise themselves, we are able to look towards the next millennium."

The Prince's failed marriage, and the Prime Minister's recent intervention in the appointment of the new Bishop of Liverpool, had fuelled speculation within the Church that disestablishment might be under consideration. Some critics regard current church reforms as disestablishment through the back door.

But Mr Bell made it clear at the synod that the Government would not countenance moves towards disestablishment. He said: "What the Church has to do is to connect with the people. The last Government had not connected with the people, the monarchy were clearly not connecting with the people."

"We are now seeing a Government connecting with the people, a monarchy connecting with the people and, through the new modernising process, a Church that will connect with the people," he said.

Mr Bell addressed the synod during a debate on proposals to modernise church structures, replacing layers of bureaucracy and committees with a central, policy-making Archbishop's Council.

"The Church has always known that to endure it must modernise," he said yesterday, adding that the co-operation between Church and Parliament over the modernisation process "shows that the link between Church and State is not, as some might think, obsolete or stagnant, but as evolving and dynamic partnership."



Bell said that Church needed to modernise

Renewing your home insurance in November or December and want to save money?

If you are 50 or over call free
0800 414 525

quoting reference
TMN707

Lines open Monday to Friday
8.00am - 7pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

Sign Incentive: When you call us to quote your home insurance, we will give you a special discount on your premium. This offer is only available to new customers and is subject to our standard terms and conditions.

INSURANCE SERVICES

Holiday alone for lawyer who fled bride and gloom

By ADRIAN LEE AND TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A LONDON lawyer who jilted his bride just before a New York society wedding was yesterday settling into the Tahitian resort where they should have been spending their honeymoon.

While Nicole Contos and her family were counting the cost of his change of heart, Tassos Michael said he would pass the time alone the four-star Beachcomber Parkroyal, described in one brochure as a "Polynesian paradise". He has a double room for nine days, which he originally booked as a surprise gift for his bride before they started married life in Wentworth, Surrey.

A furious Miss Contos, 27, was left sitting in a Rolls-Royce outside a Manhattan church on Saturday. She later insisted on going ahead with a reception for 250 guests, where she danced to the song *I Will Survive* and won admiration in America for her bravery. Yesterday she told her story on television with her mother.

Mr Michael, 35, a shipping lawyer whose family live in Bourne Green, North London, said he was amazed by the fuss. "I suppose it is because the Americans don't have a princess to write about. I can't believe there is so much interest in me," he said.

he was alone: "I have not got any super-models beating down my door, if that's what you mean. I just wanted to get away."

He declined to apologise to Miss Contos and said he had no message for her. "At the moment, I am happy for her to have her day."

Miss Contos, a kindergarten teacher whose father runs the American Banana Company, hinted that, despite her humiliation, she was prepared

"I have not got any models beating down my door. I just wanted to get away. I can't believe there is such interest"

to take him back: "I really believe it was a last-minute panic type of thing."

The couple met on a Greek beach last year. Miss Contos said that Mr Michael was "charming and debonair", and she felt their marriage was destined. He proposed in March and presented her with a four-carat diamond engagement ring.

Shortly before the ceremony, he told Miss Contos that he loved her, but was suffering

last-minute nerves. It was left to her brother, George, to stand in the pulpit of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox church and explain that she had been jilted. Mr Michael fled to Los Angeles, where he caught a flight to Tahiti. A tropical storm marked his arrival, and the jetlagged traveller was fielding calls from the press for much of the night.

The Beachcomber Parkroyal was built to resemble a Tahitian village, and offers guests private beaches, 30 acres of lush gardens, spectacular ocean views, swimming pools with grottoes and waterfalls. Rooms cost about £150 a night.

Rather than sit and cry in New York, Miss Contos said she decided not to disappoint guests from all over the world: "This was supposed to be a fairytale wedding. Well, it did have a happy ending. There just wasn't a groom. It was not the happiest occasion, but I held my head high and I am glad I went through with it. He should be very embarrassed about this."

Guests applauded as she danced in her Victorian silk dress, from Saks, at the Essex House Hotel. Her elderly father, Demetrios, paid



Left waiting at the church: the bride Nicole Contos, who described the jilting as "a last-minute panic thing"

£40,000 for the reception. To add to her embarrassment, the wedding appeared in the society pages of *The New York Times* on Sunday. It ran a retraction yesterday.

Miss Contos said that she

deserved an explanation, but Mr Michael said he had no immediate plans to call her.

There was widespread sympathy for the bride among New York's Greek community. "He's totally inhuman," said

Sarah Merians, who was supposed to photograph the wedding.

"What happened was horrendous," said Judy Rosenthal, a fellow kindergarten teacher. "She deserves a

helluva lot better." In London, Mr Michael's mother, Kay, said: "I just hope he is all right and I pray that he calls me. I am an old-fashioned mother and I forgive him. What do you expect me to say?"

62-year-old woman is jailed for smuggling

A PENSIONER was jailed yesterday for smuggling after claiming that she had bought 55,000 cigarettes to smoke. Phyllis Payne, 62, was under customs surveillance as she made 36 trips to Dover from her home in South Wales.

In June 1996 she had been sentenced to four months in jail for smuggling. That sentence was suspended for 18 months because she had not been in trouble before.

Payne, a widow on invalidity benefit, subsequently went into partnership with an unidentified "source" in Dover and bought duty-free goods heading to the Continent. David Harris, for the prosecution, told Swansea Crown Court that in June customs men raided her room in a Dover hotel and found 55,000 cigarettes, 21 kilos of hand-rolling tobacco and 22 litres of spirits.

Duty evaded over the 36 trips amounted to £58,195. "She was selling the goods on, using her house as a base," he said. Payne had used her daughter's house in Neath for storage and 17,000 cigarettes were recovered from it.

Payne admitted evading excise duty. Wayne Beard, representing her, said she was a scatterbrained woman who had persisted in the crime to clear debts incurred during a business deal.

Judge Hugh Williams jailed Payne for two years and ordered her to serve the original four months. She was banned from driving for two years.

Inspector grabs man on Beachy Head

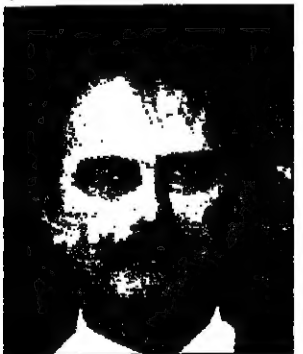
By JOANNA BAILE

A POLICE officer risked his life by rugby-tackling a suicidal man at the edge of Beachy Head yesterday. Inspector Brian Stockham intervened at 4.50am after police had spent nearly 12 hours trying to persuade a psychiatric patient to give up his suicide attempt. Police had been alerted to look out for the 47-year-old Surrey man's car and found it parked at the 500ft cliff in East Sussex. He was standing at the edge, on the far side of a ditch. After officers had talked to him until the early hours, a hot drink was left on the ground. As he returned from picking it up, he stumbled into the ditch.

Inspector Stockham said: "He was getting out of the crevice when I jumped across it and grabbed his shirt. He struggled and almost reached the edge but I managed to get a good hold of him while colleagues in harness secured him."

"I looked at how near I had been to the edge and said to myself, 'You silly person.' I thought of my children and how close I had come."

The man was taken to a psychiatric hospital.



Stockham: cliff-edge rugby tackle at night

Scientists put a face to mystery man skull

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE have used computer imaging to give a face to a body which has defied identification for six months. The body of the man in his 60s lay undiscovered on a Yorkshire moor for up to 25 years before it was found by a gamekeeper last May. But, after all other methods failed, North Yorkshire Police turned to the Department of Forensic Medicine and Science at Glasgow University.

Police sent them the skull of what they had named Colsterdale Man, after the location near Masham where the body was discovered. Mr Ed Ross-Sercombe, of North Yorkshire Police, said the skull was rotated and, using a laser-beam video capture technique, 20,000 "snapshots" were taken and compiled by a computer.

"Effectively it put a layer of skin on the bone to provide a 3D image of what the face would have looked like. This is the first time such an image has been produced."

The cause of death is unknown, although police are not treating it as suspicious. The man was about 5ft 8in with a size 32 waist and was wearing one size-eight shoe. The other was never found.

Detective Inspector Alan Ankers, head of Richmond CID, said: "The clothing may suggest he is a man of the road and there is a drovers' path nearby which he may have wandered off."

Ten years ago North Yorkshire Police asked scientists to build a human likeness from the skull of a woman whose body was found at Sutton Bank, near Thirsk. They constructed a clay model of her face but, despite international publicity, her identity was never discovered.

Sober lessons for merry England

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE million men and nearly 20,000 women get drunk at least once a week, and about three quarters of young people between 16 and 24 admit they go on drink binges, according to a survey published yesterday by the Health Education Authority. Almost a third of those questioned said they thought getting drunk was part of the English way of life. The poll among 1,600 people also found that London was the most abstemious area, with 19 per cent claiming to be teetotalers. In the Midlands and East Anglia, 90 per cent said they were drinkers, but only 2 per cent confessed to having had a hangover, the lowest level in the country.

The survey was issued at the start of a campaign to warn people that alcohol is increasingly associated with violence.

Half of adults admitted to hospital with head injuries are drunk, and half of pedestrians killed in road accidents are over the legal drink-drive limit. A third of assaults on strangers take place in or around a pub and alcohol is involved in a third of incidents of domestic violence.

Nearly a third of younger people questioned said drinking made them feel aggressive and four out of ten said they argued after drinking. Seven out of ten said they had seen a fight develop between people after a drink.

When you try something new, it's great to know there's a backup plan.

When you were young, you had to learn eyesight. Now, you can learn to see better. Things you now take for granted. So you probably never thought you'd have to go through the education process again.

Learning to see. At a certain age, say around 40-50, your eyesight begins to change. Switching focus between distant and close-up objects becomes more difficult. It's at this point that many people have to learn to live with a blurry that tell-tale dividing line on their lenses.

Well, there is an alternative - the Specsavers varifocal lens. Varifocals have revolutionised dual-prescription spectacles. But they can sometimes take a bit of getting used to.

A little practice. So, at Specsavers Opticians, because we're so confident that you'll take to them, we've developed a varifocal lens trial.

Our varifocal spectacles start from just £84.95 including the lenses. If you buy a pair from us and you don't like them, we'll replace the lenses with a pair of standard bifocals, or ensure you have two pairs of spectacles to your different prescriptions, and refund you any price difference.

No quibble, no fuss, no risk. So, at Specsavers, trying the benefits of varifocals is as easy as riding a bike - with stabilisers, of course.

Call FREE now to speak to your nearest Specsavers Optician.

FREEPHONE 0800 0680 241

Specsavers Opticians

Now you can believe your eyes

British TV takes the lion's share of Emmy awards

BRITISH television is on top of the world after Channel 4 and the BBC shared four of the six International Emmy awards in New York.

British programmes, which made up nine of the 18 nominations, won the top prize for drama, arts documentary, children and young people, and performing arts. The awards, for which only programmes made outside America are eligible, were presented on Monday night at the Hilton hotel by Sir Peter Assante, the actor Armand Assante and the American actresses Marilu Henner and Fran Drescher.

The Emmy for best drama went to *Crossing the Floor*, BBC2's political spoof about a Tory Home Secretary, played by Tom Wilkinson, defecting to the Labour Party. "Politicians are more predictable than we realise," said Guy Jenkin, the programme's director and writer, after he received the award. The Hat Trick production also starred Neil Pearson and Helen Baxendale.

Crossing the Floor, aired last October, had a certain portentous pungency: real life dramas not unlike the fictional one rocked the Tory party before the General Election earlier this year. The success of *Crossing the Floor*, however, came at the expense of *Hillsborough*, the drama-

Channel 4 and BBC win two each at New York ceremony, reports Tunku Varadarajan

documentary by Jimmy McGovern about the Sheffield football stadium disaster. The film had earlier won a Bafta award and was widely favoured to secure an Emmy.

Channel 4's *Dancing for Dollars* romped home an easy winner in the arts documentary section. The two-part film traced the decline and degradation of the once-great Bolshoi Ballet as it travelled to Las Vegas, where nobody wanted to see it. The gambling capital of the world had little time for tutus, and the visit was a flop.

The tragicomic documentary showed how a million dollars were lost by the promoters, one of whom suggested in despair to the dancers that they might sell more tickets if they performed *Swan Lake* naked. In one bitter scene, Raisa Struchkova, a ballerina with the Bolshoi on both the Las Vegas tour and a

more successful one some years earlier, recalled how audiences in New York threw so many bouquets that she "walked on flowers all the way to the hotel".

The Emmy for performing arts went to *Enter Achilles*, a play about eight men exploring their masculinity in a pub and on the dance floor. The production was by DV8 films, adapted for the BBC.

The film company's director, Lloyd Newson, is an Australian who read psychology at university, an experience that has left him with a lasting obsession with the fundamental questions of "humanity". An earlier filming of the stage play won the prestigious Prix Italia.

The final British Emmy winner was *Wise Up*, a children's programme produced by Carlton for Channel 4 which has been a nominee for three years running. The programme is an attempt to counter "dumbing down" and claims to tackle "the issues that really matter to young people". Programme ideas are thought up by children, who are also part of the filming process, both in front of and behind the camera. Child presenters deal with issues such as divorce, Northern Ireland and, somewhat improbably, House of Lords reform.

Speaking after Monday's ceremony, Mick Robertson,



Neil Pearson in *Crossing the Floor* on BBC2, which won the Emmy for best drama

the programme's producer, said: "I'm thrilled to pieces. Children should have a voice as part of the television experience."

The two remaining Emmys, for popular arts and general

documentary, went to Dutch and Canadian programmes respectively. The first, *Libert Zapf*, is a film about a travelling comedian-cum-pianist. The second, more sombre in tone, is *Gerrie and*

Louise, a documentary tracing the relationship between a South African colonel who ran "hit squads" under the old regime and a journalist investigating the disappearances of political activists.

Peer dismisses Spice Girls as bad company

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NICOLA HORLICK and the Spice Girls were condemned last night as unsuitable role models by Baroness Bragg, a life-long champion of women's education.

Lady Bragg, former High Mistress of St Paul's Girls' School in London, said she wanted to see young girls reminded of all their options, including the traditional family role. In the third annual Fawcett Library Lecture, she described as "tyrannical" the super-successful City image and the all-girl band that popularised the notion of "girl power".

They did little to encourage more women into areas where they were still under-represented, such as medicine and politics, she said. "I think they are both tyrannical role models because they are putting out to young girls that the only way of succeeding in life is to be doing something amazing, like Nicola Horlick, who is clearly a one-off, or to be like the Spice Girls, who are emphasising the rather frivolous and physical side of women."

Lady Bragg said girls should be reminded that the traditional role as mother was highly valued by society. Girls had two other "lifestyle" routes: they could devote themselves to a high-

flying career, or raise a family while working part-time. She followed the MEP Glenys Kinnock and Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, as the third annual speaker in the series for the Fawcett Library, a national centre for women's history and the oldest of its kind in the world.

She hoped that the attention given to female education in the last 20 years would help stave off an apparent crisis in male education, as boys could not expect a pattern of consistent full-time employment like their fathers. "They [boys] also need to be prepared for a much fuller role as a parent and encouraged to realise how this can enrich their lives."



Lady Bragg said band was tyrannical

ITV puts focus on drama and documentaries

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV is highlighting classic drama and documentaries this Christmas, with an adaptation of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* and a look at the legacy of apartheid. David Liddiment, ITV's new director of programmes, said the shift of emphasis reflected his wish to respond to changing needs and tastes.

Adaptations of *Wuthering Heights* and of Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* form the centrepiece of the schedule, alongside *Under the Sun*, a drama about pre-war Kenya, starring Trevor Eve, and a dramatisation of Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost* as a Christmas Day special.

Factual programmes which will be given new prominence include *Builders From Hell*, about untrustworthy tradesmen; a documentary marking the fortieth anniversary of the Munich air crash, called *The*

Busby Babes; and John Pilger's look at South Africa.

Mr Liddiment, who has been influenced by many BBC ideas and has poached a number of BBC staff for ITV, including its admired sports chief, Ian Barwick, said: "One of my first initiatives has been to put factual programmes back at the heart of the ITV schedule. I have also increased the number of distinctive drama events and extended network programming after *News at Ten*." He was keen to draw in more younger viewers, many of whom associate ITV with old-fashioned, glitzy programmes such as game shows.

ITV audiences have fallen in recent years, with the introduction of dozens of cable and satellite channels. Mr Liddiment believes that narrative documentaries, focusing on people, attract viewers.

Yesterday he announced

that he had poached yet another BBC staff executive, Grant Mansfield, the BBC's managing editor for network features and the man behind the popular BBC series *Driving School*, will join next year. ITV will keep much of its traditional "blockbuster" entertainment for Christmas Day when it will screen *Home Alone 2* as its main film. *Emmerdale* is to get its first Christmas Day special this year, alongside *Coronation Street*.

For the first time ITV will take responsibility for the Queen's Christmas Day broadcast. It will be followed by the Spice Girls in concert.

A Christmas Eve concert will come from St Paul's Cathedral, celebrating its 300th anniversary, with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Sir Harry Secombe and Patricia Routledge.

Television listings, page 51

Bonus Postal Account. New rates of up to

7.80%

gross C.A.R.

Apply post haste.

Do you want a better return on your savings? Take a look at our instant access postal account rates and believe your eyes.

The account includes a unique 2% gross C.A.R. quarterly bonus (based on your minimum balance for the quarter).

On top of that, if you need access to your money

immediately, you can get at it by post, without delay.

To open an account call Abbey National Direct, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm or Saturday 9am to 1pm, quoting reference A505P or call into your local branch or fill in the coupon below.

0800 174 635

		£1,000	£10,000	£25,000	£50,000	£100,000
Abbey National	Bonus Postal*	7.30%	7.50%	7.60%	7.70%	7.80%
Tesco	Instant Access	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%
Nationwide	Invest Direct	6.70%	6.85%	7.00%	7.10%	7.25%
Sainsbury's Bank	Instant Access	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%
Direct Line	Instant Savings	5.55%	6.65%	6.75%	6.90%	7.00%
Woolwich	Postal 60	6.50%	6.90%	7.10%	7.30%	7.50%

*to use Moneyfacts. Bonus Postal Account rates are effective from 1.12.97, are quoted gross C.A.R. and include a unique 2% gross C.A.R. bonus. All other rates quoted gross p.a. and are correct as at 19.11.97.

Savings



ABBEE NATIONAL

Because life's complicated enough.

You may be able to register with us to receive interest gross; otherwise it will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. Bonus Postal Account rates effective from 1.12.97. Rates may vary. The maximum investment is £2000. A bonus is payable each quarter that the balance of the account does not fall below £2000. The Compound Annual Rate (C.A.R.) is the equivalent annual gross rate that would be achieved if interest, which is paid quarterly, was credited to the account. This account is not available to residents of the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands. To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Abbey National and the Umbrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL, United Kingdom.

Please complete and send to: Abbey National Direct Postal Account Centre, Freeport BE 1890, PO Box 422, Belfast BT2 7BB.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Phone numbers: (Daytime) _____ (Evening) _____

Date of birth: _____ Signature(s): _____

Please find attached my cheque for £ _____ to invest in the Abbey National Bonus Postal Account or send me further information. ☐

Please send a personal cheque drawn from an account in and showing your name, plus two confirmations of address e.g. household bills

MY58/CS05P

OYSTEL LOW-COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Because at these prices, you can make her Thanksgiving even happier.

TOMORROW ONLY
USA 8p

ST. PAUL AND PER MIN.

BT Oystel

INDIA £1.20p 42p

HONG KONG 59p 34p

SOUTH AFRICA 80p 37p

GHANA £1.32 53p

These rates are selected international numbers. Prices are based on UK daytime rates and include VAT.

CALL FREE ON

OYSTEL 0800 3761666

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

No-one goes further to keep you closer

- Huge savings on calls to hundreds of countries.
- NO further charges or hidden extra costs.
- Free instant connection from any Touch-Tone phone.
- Prices quoted are per minute, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and INCLUDING VAT.

Labour urged

مركز الامارات

Vicar gives up church for Internet romance

Russell Jenkins reports on a clergyman who found a new way of life

A VICAR is to give up the cloth to start a new life by the seaside after finding a bride on the Internet. The Rev Arthur Wilson, 54, vicar of Holy Trinity in Shaw, Oldham, took to surfing the Internet after his first wife died and his vocation in the inner-city parish was severely shaken by the ordination of women.

Depressed and disheartened, he reached out for help through the Internet Relay Chat channels and was answered by Jenny Russell, 48, a former girls' boarding school mistress suffering from multiple sclerosis.

Mr Wilson, a clergyman for 25 years, will leave the Church after conducting Christmas midnight Mass and move to Worthing, West Sussex, where the couple will be married next August. They plan to exploit their shared interest in the Internet by starting a business setting up Web sites.

Mr Wilson has been wrestling with his conscience over

reforms in the Church of England, notably the ordination of women, since the early 1990s. The death of his wife, Marilyn, a teacher and parish councillor, in April last year plunged him into depression.

He said: "I had been under enormous pressure domestically, and with my theological doubts. I have a young child of 12, Timothy, so I have had a lot on my plate. It has been quite hard. I have always been interested in computers. I was a graduate engineer before I was ordained.

When I acquired an Internet account, I had no thought of finding a refuge in cyberspace. That was not my motivation at all. "I discovered the Internet Relay Chat channels and became quite an addict. As you surf, you find like-minded people there. Jenny and I first met on the Internet about a

year ago and met up in February."

He remembers chiefly that Miss Russell prepared a delicious casserole at their first meeting at her home near Worthing. The relationship has since developed along more traditional lines. "I shudder to think what my telephone bill is now," he said.

When they agreed to get married, Mr Wilson decided that it was the right time to make a clean break from his ministry. "Once Jenny and I had decided to be married I felt I could not take all the tensions into a new life," he said. "I decided that the time had come to do what I had been agonising about, which was resigning as vicar of Shaw."

"Jenny is disabled with multiple sclerosis. We need to put a lot of our energies into looking after each other. It

seems like the right thing to do." Mr Wilson, known as "Arfa" on the Net, hopes to arrange the wedding to coincide with a gathering of members of the "fiftyish" chat line that brought the couple together. He will receive a financial settlement from the Church of England under provisions set up to compensate ministers leaving the Church because of their opposition to the ordination of women.

"The parishioners are very pleased for me," said Mr Wilson, who has been vicar of Shaw for ten years. "They have been marvellous since my first wife died."

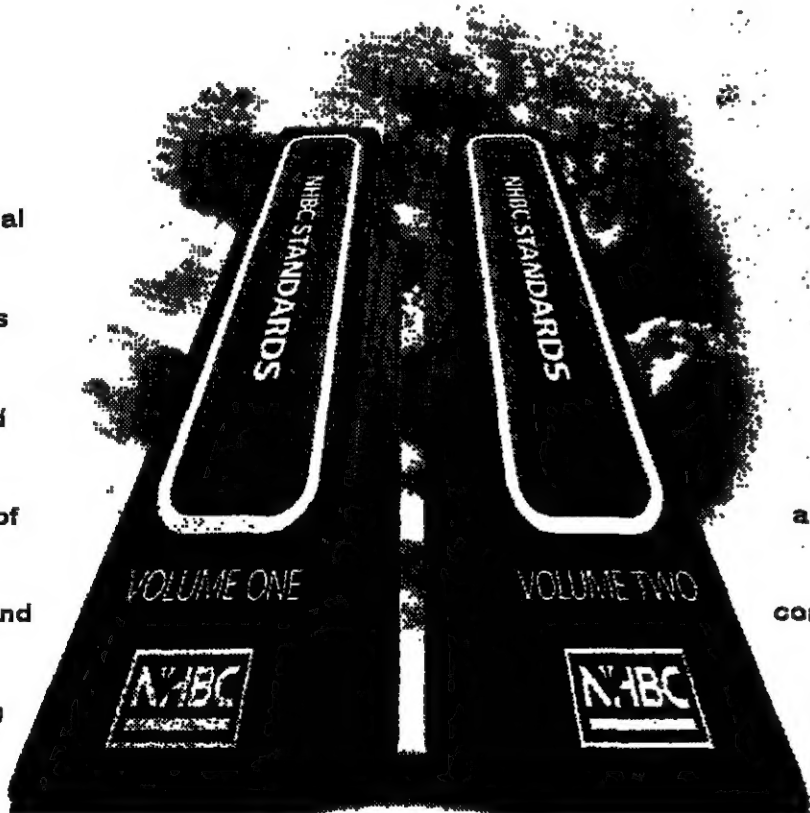
Miss Russell turned to her computer when she found it difficult to balance and move around. It opened up a new world, she said. "I don't think either of us set out to pursue romance. It is just something that happened. We gelled fantastically when we first met. Now, we are both together and we can both look after each other."



The Rev Arthur Wilson and Jenny Russell, who met over the Internet, will marry and live on the South Coast

WE'VE SPENT 60 YEARS
BUILDING MUCH MORE THAN
JUST A REPUTATION.

In 1936 the National House-Building Council was set up to encourage and promote a high standard of design, workmanship and materials in house building in the United Kingdom.



But despite our many successes, we're not resting on our laurels. We're just as committed to protecting consumers now as we were in 1936. And to continually help improve the quality

Today, we act as the independent regulatory body for the UK house-building industry and, to date, have inspected, set construction Standards and provided vital home buyer protection for about 5 million homes. That's over 30% of the private sector housing stock.

Our model of standard setting and home owner protection has been emulated all over the world - from Canada, Europe and the Far East, to the new home warranty system we are helping to set up in South Africa.

of new homes to meet rising consumer expectations. That's why we're currently carrying out a fundamental review of how we operate. Because we're determined to deliver home buyer protection and independent industry regulation that's fit for the 21st Century.

So you can be sure, in a future that needs another 4.4 million new homes over the next twenty years, we'll be there to see they're built to last.



NHBC, Buildmark House, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5AP.

Families object to appeal by jailed skipper

By RICHARD DUCE

BEREAVED relatives and friends lobbied the High Court yesterday to protest against an appeal by the skipper of a sailing ship which sank with the loss of three lives to have his manslaughter conviction overturned.

Mark Litchfield, 56, was sentenced to 18 months in prison after the *Maria Assumpta*, the world's oldest square-rigged sailing ship, sank off Padstow on the north coast of Cornwall in May 1995.

He was found to be grossly negligent by a jury at Exeter Crown Court after the ship ran aground drowning the ship's cook, Anne Taylor, 51, assistant bosun, Emily MacFarlane, 19, and the second engineer, John Shannon, 30. Eleven crew survived.

At Litchfield's trial the court was told that he showed profound disregard for the lives of his crew by sailing too close to shore, and when he realised he was heading on to the rocks, started engines which he knew to be fuelled by contaminated diesel. As a result the engines failed and the ship ran aground.

Litchfield, a former Royal Navy officer of Boxley, Kent,

was bailed last August pending appeal and as he arrived at court yesterday he was greeted by 22 protesters.

They claimed to represent the number of people who had drowned on ships owned by Litchfield - including the square-rigger *Marques*, which sank off Bermuda in 1984, with the loss of 19 lives, for which Litchfield was held by inspectors to be in breach of his common law duty of care. There were no criminal proceedings.

At the appeal hearing yesterday, Alun Jones, QC, for Litchfield, said none of the crew of the *Maria Assumpta* had seen anything dangerous in the skipper's course. He said the suggestion that the ship's engine failed because of contaminated fuel was based on "probabilities and speculation".

Outside court, Shirley Cooklin, the mother of Ben Bryant, who died on the *Marques*, said: "I knew more lives would be lost if Litchfield was allowed to continue sailing. I am convinced this could happen again and again if his conviction is overturned." The appeal continues.

£120,000
won't change
your family's life

What would happen to your family if you weren't around to support them? Would they have to move? Change schools? Forget about holidays? Money will never replace you, but it could mean their standard of living doesn't fall too far.

Legal & General's Family Protection Plan could help secure your family's future should you die or become terminally ill.

For a quotation call the number below. Alternatively, contact your financial advisor.

THE ASSURANCE FOR JUST £10 A DAY		
RENEWABLE	TERM	PER DAY
£120,000	15yrs	41p
£50,000	15yrs	33p

Based on a male non-smoker aged 50 years (acceptance subject to individual details).
*Excludes up to 40% a month. *Equivalent to £12.42 a month.
Minimum premium of £45 per month equates to 17p per day.

FREE LEGAL & GENERAL KIDS UMBRELLA
Which your application will include and then premium paid.

CALL NOW FOR YOUR INSTANT PERSONAL QUOTE
0500 33 66 66

QUOTING REFERENCE NUMBER 1360415
Lines are open from 9am, Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. For your protection, calls on this number will usually be recorded and monitored.
Further information on Legal & General products is available on our Website: <http://www.legalandgeneral.co.uk>

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General insurance group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSA for the purpose of recommending, advising on and selling life insurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

Legal & General Direct Limited, Registered in England No. 274999, Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TF.



trust us to deliver.

Queen j

Starlight rol
fell over loses

Saturday

Queen judges Denning worthy of Merit

The legal veteran has been chosen for a rare honour in the Sovereign's own gift, writes Alan Hamilton

PERHAPS there was a slight spring in the step of Lord Denning as he took his customary morning walk in the grounds of his Hampshire home yesterday. Our longest-serving and best-known of judges has been appointed by the Queen to the Order of Merit.

Lord Denning, who will be 99 in January, joins Sir Norman Foster, the architect, and Sir Denis Rooke, the former British Gas chairman, as new members of the exclusive order, which is limited to 24 members. It is the Sovereign's personal gift and requires no advice from Downing Street.

Born Alfred Thompson Denning in 1899, the son of a Hampshire draper, the former Master of the Rolls declined to discuss his honour on the telephone yesterday, pleading advancing deafness. But his clerk, Peter Post, said that Lord Denning was proud to be joining such distinguished ranks, whose members have included Florence Nightingale and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, not to mention such living luminaries as the Duke of Edinburgh, Baroness Thatcher and President Mandela.

It is uncertain whether Lord Denning will be able to travel to Buckingham Palace for his investiture. "He is in fair form for his age, and still tries to take a short walk in the morning, but we have not yet decided whether he can manage the journey," Mr Post said. "We hope it will be possible."



Sir Norman: another of three royal appointees

— this is marvellous recognition for our best-known judge. He was absolutely delighted when the letter arrived from the Queen last week."

Lord Denning still lives in the Hampshire village where he was born, although in somewhat greater grandeur than his father did. The Lawn, Whitechurch, is a splendid Regency house set in 35 acres, but is now largely empty. Lady Denning died five years ago, and her husband's only regular companions are two permanent nurses.

His son is an Oxford professor of chemistry at Magdalen, where Lord Denning himself achieved a triple first after an education at the village school and at Andover Grammar School.

While one of his brothers became a general and another an admiral, Tom Denning

was called to the Bar in 1923 to begin a distinguished, often controversial and usually outspoken legal career spanning nearly 60 years. He investigated the Profumo scandal of 1963, urged dockyard unions to take the Government to court over privatisation, attacked the Greenham Common peace women and the Animal Liberation Front, and claimed that jury-nobbling was a significant problem in the English courts.

Lord Denning had been appointed Master of the Rolls in 1962, before the introduction of compulsory retirement at 75, and remained on the bench until he was 83. "You can do good work after 75," he said at the time.

But Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, then the Lord Chancellor, took a different view. "The trouble with Tom Denning is that he is always remarking the law, and we never know where we are."

Since his retirement, Lord Denning has shown little sign of lapsing into his dotage. In an interview in *The Spectator* in 1990, he caused much controversy when he said that the Guildford Four were "probably guilty" and that, if the Birmingham Six had been hanged, "we shouldn't have all these campaigns to get them released". He said later that he had been quoted out of context.

He crossed swords with Lord Taylor of Gossforth, then the Lord Chief Justice, over



Lord Denning, who is 98, in the garden of his Regency home in the Hampshire village where he was born. He still takes a daily stroll

mandatory life sentences, and gave free advice to Lord Justice Scott in the "arms for Iraq" inquiry, saying that, as he had found in the Profumo inquiry, it was difficult for one man to be detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge. He

still refuses to lie down. At the age of 95, he joined his local neighbourhood watch, and has campaigned enthusiastically to save his old village school and to preserve public rights of way around his village.

Of the other two appointees to the Order of Merit, Sir Norman is known for such major building projects as the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong, and for backing a scheme to pedestrianise parts of Trafal-

gar Square and Parliament Square in London. Sir Denis, who led the gas industry through privatisation with the controversial "Sid" advertising campaign, is Chancellor of Loughborough University of Technology. The three

vacancies in the order have been created by the deaths of Sir Isaiah Berlin, Lord Todd and Dame Veronica Wedgwood.

Court and Social news, page 24

Starlight rollerskater who fell over loses damages case

By TIM JONES

A ROLLERSKATING dancer whose career ended after she fell during a performance of the musical *Starlight Express* lost her High Court action for damages yesterday.

Caron Davis cried when she described how the stage career she loved ended after the accident, more than three years ago. As one of four dancers in an opening number called *Locomotion*, Miss Davis, who used the stage name Caron Cordelle, was required to sing and skate to the edge of the stage to introduce herself to the audience.

But during the performance, in March 1994, she said, the toe-stop on her skate failed to act as a brake because dust and fluff made the stage slippery. She said: "I fell on my backside, and was very embarrassed, but I kept on singing and got on with the show."

Miss Davis, 31, of Ruislip, West London, who had been with the show

for almost ten years and was hoping to claim more than £50,000, alleged that the Really Useful Theatre Company was negligent in not doing more to stop the stage being slippery by keeping it dust-free.

She said: "I was one of the strongest dancers in the show but I couldn't do anything to keep my balance." She added that the damage to her back meant she could no longer dance and it had affected her new job as a reflexologist.

The company, which manages the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical at the Apollo Victoria theatre in London, denied liability and said that the accident was caused by her lack of concentration.

Judge Christopher Horden, QC, who admitted having starred in *St James's Park* "many years ago", found no breach of statutory duty or negligence had been established against the company. He said that, although the

performance had been halted on the night she fell so that the stage could be cleaned, it was no more slippery than usual.

The judge said Miss Davis's allegations, that fluff had been deposited on the stage and on to her toe-stop by the air conditioning system, or had come from a new front-of-house carpet, were no more than "red herrings".

There was, he said, a good system in place at the theatre, which involved treating the stage with a special cleaner twice a week and sweeping it before each performance.

He said: "No system can wholly guarantee that the surface of a stage upon which a number of performers continually rollerskate will be precisely the same on all occasions and in all parts. But this system did all that was reasonably practicable to keep the stage safe for the activity that was to take place upon it."

Miss Davis, whose case was funded



Davis: tried to claim £50,000 after career was ended by fall

by Equity, the actors' union, was ordered to pay the costs of the action. Afterwards, she said: "I feel gutted. I know the truth of what happened, but it seems it is difficult to prove."

MoD rejects engine fault in Chinook crash

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE engines on the RAF Chinook helicopter that crashed into the Mull of Kintyre, killing 29 counter-terrorist and special forces personnel in 1994, were operating normally at the point of impact, the Armed Forces Minister said yesterday.

Reconfirming the Ministry of Defence's judgment that the crash was due to pilot negligence, John Reid dismissed claims that an engine control system had been faulty. Peter Watson, a lawyer acting for one of the pilots killed in the crash, claimed that the RAF may have withheld vital technical information about the engine control system, called Fader (full authority digital engine control).

He claimed the RAF had known there was a question

mark over the system and that, the day after the crash, a memo had been circulated pointing to problems with the equipment. "It suggested the software was unsuitable for its purpose and was unverifiable: in short, it was unreliable and didn't work," he said, adding that the memo had not been released to anyone inquiring into the crash.

After briefing the Commons Defence Committee yesterday, Dr Reid said concerns about the system had been known to the civilian and military investigators at the time of the accident and "were discounted from having any role in the cause of this accident."

"The evidence demonstrated that both engines on the aircraft were operating normally at the time of impact."

The accident was the subject of an RAF board of inquiry and of a fatal accident inquiry in Scotland. Ministers have concluded, as had the previous administration, that the evidence fully substantiated the board's finding that Flight Lieutenant Richard Cook and Flight Lieutenant Jonathan Tapper, "in continuing to fly towards the high ground of the Mull below a safe altitude in unsuitable weather conditions, did not exercise the skill, care or judgment that they were known to possess".

Dr Reid said: "The board of inquiry and the Ministry of Defence take no pleasure in the finding of negligence and we understand and sympathise with the distress that this finding has caused the families of the two pilots."

120,000
don't change
your family's life

Saturday Sunday

CHAT
AS LONG
AS YOU LIKE
FOR 50p

Now our
50p offer
covers the
whole
weekend.

You could talk 'til the cows come home every Saturday — and pay no more than 50p with Cable & Wireless. But some of you said you'd rather have those long, relaxed conversations on Sundays. Fine... Because from 1st November, our 50p offer covers the whole weekend. Imagine, every UK long distance call every Saturday and Sunday, during November and December, will be rated as normal until it reaches 50p...then you can stay on the phone for as long as you like without paying a penny more.

This unique offer is just one of the many ways Cable & Wireless can save you money on your phone calls every day of the week. To find out more, please FreeCall 0500 500 366 quoting RTIMD.



CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

including VAT @ 12.5%. Long distance refers to regional and national UK calls. Calls to non-geographic numbers and calls made using the Cable & Wireless Calling Card do not qualify for this promotion. This offer is only available to SmartCall, UK-Call and LocalCall customers.

Why Brown can defer the tough decisions

GORDON BROWN will doubtless be delighted with the quiet purrs with which the media are almost bound to greet his Pre-Budget Report.

The Chancellor has done his utmost to present a bleak picture of the economy and the outlook for public finances, no doubt in the hope of pulling some goodies out of his hat when the time comes to present his full Budget next March. Mr Brown now says that he will have to borrow more next year than the Treasury had expected. He expects to miss his own inflation target. He has also significantly downgraded earlier forecasts of economic growth and therefore of jobs.

But the headlines and television coverage inspired by yesterday's statement are sure to be full of good news. One million children romping in their newly created playgroups; three million cosy pensioners toasting muffins on their newly subsidised gas fires; film producers, scientists and fashion designers impressing the world on



The Chancellor may earn plaudits today, but his job will be harder next year, writes Anatole Kaletsky

grants from the grandly named National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts. There may not have been much economic excitement in Mr Brown's pre-Budget statement, but could anyone have come up with more wholesome images to convey the spirit of new Labour's new Britain?

Mr Brown should enjoy the public adulation while he has it from next year he will face a much harder task. If the Treasury's forecasts are correct and the economy slows to a sub-trend growth rate of between 1.5 and 2 per cent in 1999, unemployment will start rising again from around the autumn of next year. Under these conditions of deficient demand, unemployment would rise even

more steeply if Mr Brown were actually successful in his declared commitment to increase the productivity of average British worker (a challenge for businessmen and workers which is beyond the capacity of any government and perhaps should be recognised as such).

To make matters worse, the public finances will not be improving nearly as rapidly as the Treasury had expected as recently as last June. According to Mr Brown's new forecasts, the public sector borrowing requirement in 1998-99 will be £6 billion. This may seem only a marginal deterioration from the £5.4 billion in the Treasury's June forecast. But the short-fall seems much more serious once we recognise that the

economy has grown faster this year than expected, that rapid growth is expected to continue for the first part of next year and that the forecasts of inflation (which always flatters the public finances) have also edged up.

Why then does the City remain unworried? Because most economists believe that the Chancellor has cooked the books to make economic prospects look worse than they really are. This is a traditional practice of Chancellors trying to fend off demands for higher public spending from their ministerial colleagues. Excessive pessimism is also a natural temptation for politicians in the first half of a parliament, when they are trying to keep their powder dry for a pre-election binge of public spending and good economic news.

Usually Chancellors have to pay a price for such pessimism in terms of personal popularity. But yesterday Mr Brown seemed immune. The reason lies in a series of political ruses whose implica-

tions are still not fully understood, especially among Labour backbenchers. Autumn is the time of year when Chancellors must normally take money from some government departments to give to others as they prepare the Government's spending plans for the following financial year. Past Autumn Statements have invariably been preceded by stories of ministerial "blood on the carpet" in the Cabinet room and followed by headlines about

"Chancellor Scrooge" and squeals of anguish from voters and spending lobbies.

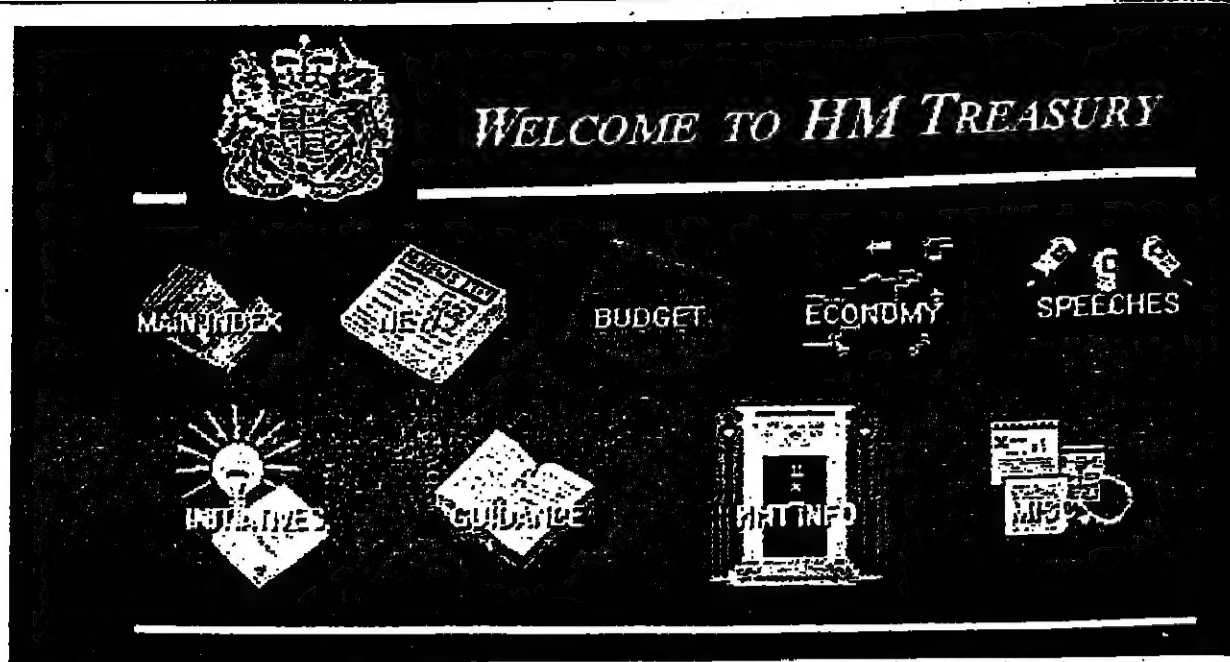
This year all of the difficult decisions have been lifted from the Chancellor's shoulders. Some have been deferred, awaiting reports from a plethora of special commissions and reviews: on welfare reform, on minimum wages, on pensions and on capital gains tax to name but a few.

The equally contentious task of rebalancing the core priorities of public spending

away from Tory values and in favour of the values supposedly espoused by new Labour has been postponed even longer. By promising to stick to Tory spending plans for the first two years of the new Parliament, Mr Brown and Tony Blair have so far managed to sidestep the questions of priorities which have dominated all previous governments. Since the election there has been none of the traditional ministerial warfare over transferring money from de-

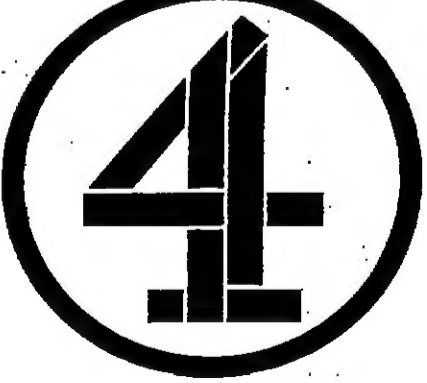
fence to health or from education to pensions.

But this unaccustomed peace can only be maintained for as long as the new Labour Government sticks to the old Tory Government's policies. This is a state of grace which even Mr Blair and Mr Brown, with all their skills of political and media manipulation, will not be able to preserve next year. Next autumn Mr Brown will have a much harder task when he presents the first genuine Labour Budget.



Internet browsers can check Treasury developments, including Mr Brown's Pre-Budget Report, on its Web site

- #1 CHOOSE LIFE.
- #2 CHOOSE AN ARMCHAIR.
- #3 CHOOSE A TV PREMIERE.
- #4 CHOOSE CHANNEL 4.
- #5 CHOOSE 10PM TONIGHT.



Challenges over 'help' for low paid

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Chancellor again alluded to Labour's plan to halve the lowest rate of income tax from the current 20p in the pound. Gordon Brown said: "A 10p starting rate of tax, and reform of benefit tapers, will be introduced when it is prudent to do so."

Cutting tax in this way would produce a maximum gain of around £410, assuming today's tax bands. However, accountants have criticised it because they believe it will bring the big-

INCOME TAX

gest benefit to the higher paid. Someone earning the national average wage of about £18,500 would save the full £410, whereas someone earning £7,000 would save £295.

John Whiting, tax partner at Price Waterhouse, said: "It is a good thing, but a 10p income tax rate does not do anything. The lowest paid are not interested in low rates of tax, they are interested in not losing their benefits as soon as they start work. The Government should attack the benefits trap. You will not tempt someone to take a low paid job."

John Battersby, tax partner at KPMG said: It would have been better to give some options."

Investors may not feel much relief

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE long-awaited details of the Individual Savings Account, Gordon Brown's cure for the widespread aversion to thrift, will be unveiled next Tuesday. The Chancellor announced that he would be issuing a consultation document on the new account which will supplant the Personal Equity Plan (PEP) and the Tax Exempt Special Savings Account (TESSA), the two Conservative tax-free savings initiatives.

However, the Isa will not

necessarily be another generous tax break. Accountants believe that Mr Brown's wish to ensure that the account appeals to a large section of the population, presumably without extra cost to the Exchequer, means that tax reliefs could be restricted. John Battersby of KPMG, the accountancy firm, speculated that Isa tax relief could be limited to 10 per cent. By contrast, PEPs and TESSAs enjoy higher rates (40 per cent) relief.

The Chancellor again voiced his wish to increase the nation's level of savings. Although some £35 billion is held in PEPs and another £25 billion in TESSAs, half the adult population still has no savings.

Bulgaria in Crisis

Appeal to Times Readers

LEFT TO FREEZE

Yordan, 14, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.



No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need.

Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

● £22 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust. Or debit my Access/Visa/CAP card

Card no _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone no. _____

Return to: Tanya Baxton, (76), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE3555, 64 Queen Street, LONDON, EC4B 4AR or call 01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048777

Please act NOW - winter is coming

The Guardian
FILM
ON
FOUR

Trainspotting

Made for Channel 4.

£300m price of rebellion on cuts in childcare

dealers offered price travel

Postwar problem returns to haunt working mothers

GORDON BROWN'S proposal to set up a chain of 30,000 centres for "latchkey kids" is the latest attempt to tackle a problem that has been with us off and on since the Second World War. In wartime there was particularly good nursery provision for working mothers; today an estimated 350,000 children aged between four and 12 go home to an empty house.

There used to be two kinds of latchkey kid — those who wore the front door key around their neck, and those who knew to find it on the end of a piece of string behind the letterbox. Either way, they went home to an empty house.

Working women were a common and accepted phenomenon during the war, but the notion went severely out of fashion around 1947, when psychiatrists concluded that the primary cause for juvenile delinquency was maternal deprivation. They did not seem to consider that paternal deprivation might have been equally important. The 1950s

Alan Hamilton
puts the increase in 'latchkey kids' down to changes in jobs market.

was a decade of mothers staying at home, it being a mark of some ascendancy that the wife of the family did not need to earn a supplementary income — except, of course, in the hard-headed north, where female jobs in the cotton mills were traditional and brass talked louder than swank.

Then came the consumerism of the 1960s. Not only did women develop a huge appetite for washing machines and other domestic gadgetry, but there was a marked movement from renting one's home to owning it. The kids began to be ignored as the mothers

went in pursuit of that second income.

In the late seventies and early eighties, the desire for women to work received fresh impetus from two directions. First, traditionally male jobs began to disappear with the decline of old smoketack industries, and most of the new work being created was suited to women. Secondly, women were swallowing the feminist argument that they were entitled to their own lives and careers. Once again, the phenomenon of the string behind the letterbox came to the fore.

Susan MacGregor, professor of social policy at Middlesex University, said last night: "In the 1950s it was socially respectable for women not to work. Now the reverse is true; it is eminently respectable for women to work."

Professor MacGregor was herself a latchkey kid, but being from a good home in the north of England, she wore it round her neck.



With more women and lone parents seeking work, Gordon Brown's plans aim to provide out-of-school places for a million "latchkey kids"

£300m price of rebellion on cuts in childcare

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE surprise £300 million childcare package announced by the Chancellor yesterday followed frantic negotiations between Gordon Brown and David Blunkett last weekend.

The two men met at the Treasury last Saturday to try to broker a deal on childcare which would quell a mounting rebellion among Labour backbenchers on lone parent benefit cuts. The Government was committed in its manifesto to a nationwide childcare strategy but had planned to announce the start of the package in 1999 or later.

The Chancellor has been forced to accelerate the scheme, however, because of the scale of the MPs' revolt. Backbenchers had already warned that it was the single most contentious issue at Westminster since the General Election and there was little sign that it would fade away. Over 80 MPs had signed a Commons resolution, of whom 55 were Labour MPs.

Last week there was a bitter row over the single parent outbacks at the weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

MPs were mainly concerned that the outbacks of £11 a week, would be implemented in April, but there would be no help under Harriet Harman's New Deal to help single parents find jobs, until October. At a meeting of the parliamentary committee at-

tended by Tony Blair that afternoon, backbench leaders called on the Prime Minister to repeal the outbacks or introduce alternative measures to compensate for the loss of cash. One of the measures was to bring forward the New Deal for single parents to this April, and to give extra child care for those affected by the outbacks.

The campaign for a climbdown continued throughout the weekend and Ministers only decided on Sunday to bring forward the childcare package. Mr Brown and Mr Blunkett decided that Ms Harman's programme would be brought forward for single mothers on benefit to next April. Every lone parent wanting to claim income support will be offered an interview and advice on job and training opportunities and childcare.

The main obstacle was how the plan was to be funded given that Gordon Brown had pledged to stick within Tory budgets for the next two years. The Government had always proposed that after-school kids' clubs should be paid for by the Opportunities Fund, the new National Lottery fund which is being set up to supplement health and education resources.

However, legislation for the new fund is still going through the Commons and it will not be enacted before April 1998. The first tranche of money — about £30 million — will therefore come directly from the Treasury, funded out of the windfall tax.

The pre-Budget report also discloses that the Government also plans to allocate a further £25 million to help lone parents with children under school age. Labour MPs had pointed out at the meeting with Mr Blair that several single mothers wanted to work but were unable to do so because they had young children. The extra money is now expected to go towards child care places in the workplace or childminders to help the 12 per cent of lone parents with younger children to get jobs.



Blunkett: frantic negotiations at No 11

Jobseekers offered half-price travel

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor yesterday praised bus and rail companies that have offered help to young people seeking work under the Government's training programme.

Thousands of young people seeking work will be given free or cheap travel on public transport under the scheme arranged by National Express and Stagecoach. They are offering half-price travel to those aged between 18 and 24 under the Government's welfare-to-work initiative. The companies, which between them run seven of the

25 train operators and many bus firms throughout Britain, are offering the discounts on most of their franchises. Other smaller firms are also involved in talks with government officials, aimed at increasing the amount of help given to those on the welfare-to-work scheme.

Mr Brown told the Commons that the move would help reduce travel-to-work costs that could be "a significant barrier for young people moving from welfare to work". Treasury officials made clear that the Government would not offer any incentives to companies to offer discounts.

connect to
one 2 one
and take a
break on us



Connect to any One 2 One time plan by December 24th 1997 and you and your partner can enjoy two nights at one of over 100 Forte and Forte Heritage UK hotels — all you have to pay for is breakfast.

Our time plans give you a choice of 30, 100 or 200 minutes of free time each month or free local calls all weekend long. And the goodwill doesn't stop there because with One 2 One you also get a free voicemail answering service, free message retrieval and per-second itemised billing on your calls.

So whether you're thinking of a mobile phone for yourself or as a gift for someone else, a connection to One 2 One means the treat's on us.

For more information or details of your nearest One 2 One stockist call 0500 500 121.

one 2 one

*Offer not available with the Up 2 You package and selected direct sales agreements. Terms and conditions apply, including a £10 charge for breakfast, of £3.95 per person per day when staying at a hotel. For details of local calls and free time, see our 'why should you have a one 2 one with One 2 One?' booklet. **When on a One 2 One time plan and using the One 2 One service, you can call 0500 500 121 for more information.

Brown sets out to make Britain work

More cash pledged to help the old, the unemployed and struggling families

The following are extracts from Gordon Brown's speech to the Commons yesterday.

THE SPEECH

informed debate can this country achieve that shared understanding of the tasks ahead and that shared sense of national economy purpose that has eluded us for so long.

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

The key to strong public services is long-term prosperity through higher productivity. Government, industry and people together must now work to remove all barriers to productivity: in product markets through encouraging competition and innovation; in capital markets through measures to enhance growth and investment, not least for innovative small businesses;

"We are simply not prepared to allow another winter to go by when pensioners are fearful of turning up their heating"

and in the workplace through encouraging the creativity and flexibility of inventors, managers and workforces.

After our successful Budget initiative of July to encourage one of the most neglected of our creative industries — film — it is time to do more to encourage other creative industries where from science, computer software and communications to design, fashion and music, our British genius for creativity has made Britain a world leader.

This year, entrepreneurs in small and medium sized companies can draw on our £200 million doubling of capital allowances to invest in new technology. From next year the new National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts will make grants to encourage creative talents.

But I can also say today,

that in advance of the Budget, the President of the Board of Trade and I are examining how, to improve productivity, we can help leading-edge businesses gain funds to develop new technologies; how we can improve Britain's poor record of investment in research and development; and how we can make it easier for small businesses to draw on venture capital to create jobs and a more entrepreneurial culture.

Our poor record on investment in Britain also reflects our low level of national saving. Half the adult population have hardly any savings at all. To encourage more people to save we will introduce from April 1999 new individual savings accounts, the details of which will be put out to consultation next Tuesday. But there is one decision on investment that should not be delayed. In July we implemented the first stage of corporate tax reform, cutting the main rate of corporation tax by 2 per cent to 31 per cent, its lowest level ever. And, following the abolition of payable tax credits, we began to consult, as promised, on the second stage.

Advance corporation tax is now a hindrance to sensible business planning. Britain needs a reformed system that matches the needs of modern companies and favours the long term. So to allow companies to plan I can confirm today that in April 1999 advance corporation tax will be abolished. At that point we will begin the move to paying corporation tax by quarterly instalments. Small companies will be exempt from this and special arrangements will be made for medium-sized companies. We will phase in the change over four years.

To help ease the transition and to take one stage further our pro-business and pro-investment agenda, I can announce that in the Budget, the main rate of corporation tax

will be cut again by 1 per cent to 30 per cent from April 1999 — the lowest tax rate of any major industrialised country.



Gordon Brown at the dispatch box yesterday, promising to end Britain's tradition of "muddling through from one stop-go cycle to another"

will be cut again by 1 per cent to 30 per cent from April 1999 — the lowest tax rate of any major industrialised country.

EMPLOYMENT

In July we said that instead of simply compensating people for unemployment, our priority is to tackle the root causes of unemployment and poverty by providing new opportunities for work. The Government has been addressing all the obstacles that prevent people taking up and benefiting from work:

- the absence of marketable skills
- the failure of the tax and benefits system to make work worthwhile
- the poverty and unemployment traps that for far too many mean that work does not pay
- the scarcity of affordable childcare

We have concluded that to help people move from benefits to wages, nothing less

than a comprehensive tax and benefit reform and the modernisation of the welfare state is required. This strategy involves three basic elements: providing skills for work, making work pay and creating new job opportunities.

First, to offer skills for work, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment will shortly publish proposals for Individual Learning Accounts and for the University for Industry. Secondly, I want everyone who can work to be better off in work than on benefit. So the Government now proposes an integrated tax and benefit plan involving action at every level.

To maximise the rewards from work, a 10p starting rate of tax and a reform of benefit tapers will be introduced when it is prudent to do so.

WORKING FAMILIES

To ensure that work pays for families with children, we propose a working families tax credit, backed up by affordable child care. And to ensure the rewards of these reforms flow directly to the employee we are committed to a statutory minimum wage.

We will now consider in detail the working families tax credit: cash paid through the wage packet directly to families on low incomes, side by side with the minimum wage. The proposal would build on the successful elements of family credit, and involve better help through the tax system for childcare costs.

We will now also consider the future structure of national insurance for the low paid. Some low-paid employees face marginal tax rates of over 100 per cent. To improve rewards from work, to simplify administrative burdens on employers and to encourage them to take on more people, it is now right to consider the scope for bringing the national insurance structure for the low paid more closely into line with income tax.

And finally, there are men and women who have been excluded far too long and who need extra help to get back into work. In the Budget we made a start by announcing a new deal worth £4 billion that provides jobs for young unemployed, lone parents and the disabled.

The new deal for the young unemployed will start in pilot form in January and extend nationwide for the young unemployed in April, with the support of some of our best known companies. I can also announce today that some of Britain's leading bus and rail companies have agreed to play their part by introducing a new travel pass for young people on our new deal, cutting by at least 50 per cent their travel fares.

Helping lone parents into work is the most effective long-term way to tackle their family poverty. The new deal for lone parents began in eight areas in July. Already it is yielding results where it counts — in higher living standards for lone-parent families. So from next year our Welfare to Work programme will be extended to help every lone parent who wants advice and help. And from April every single parent coming on to benefit will be offered help to find work if that is what she or he wants.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Lone parents need and have a right to expect affordable child care. Indeed, since May this Government of State for

Homeowners and savers left to suffer, says Lilley

By JAMES LANDALE AND POLLY NEWTON

THE DEBATE



Lilley: condemned "broken promises"

PETER LILLEY told MPs that homeowners, savers and taxpayers would be disappointed by a pre-Budget statement that did nothing to undo the damage caused by recent rises in tax and interest rates.

The Shadow Chancellor said that nothing Gordon Brown had proposed would help the typical home-owning family, which faced £650 a year higher costs because of interest rate rises, a cut in mortgage tax relief and extra burdens on pension funds. "On this side of the House we would welcome any reduction in tax from a Chancellor who has broken his promise not to raise taxes and increased 17 taxes."

He told Mr Brown: "Most outside observers will find your statement disappointing because there is so little detail on future tax reforms despite what we were promised, so little to reassure savers who have been disturbed by your proposals and so little to clarify the confusion surrounding all your welfare reforms."

"Above all, homeowners, savers and taxpayers will be disappointed that there is nothing in the statement to undo the cost to them that this Government has already inflicted through five interest rate increases, 17 tax rises and a cruel tax on their pension funds."

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, welcomed the concept of a pre-Budget

statement and said his party would submit its own proposals to the Treasury. But he asked why the Chancellor had not given details about the Government's expenditure plans. "This is a point of a statement with a hole in the middle where the spending plans should be."

He asked why Mr Brown was able to find cash for these tax cuts but could not give any more to the health service and education. "Although the Tories are out of office, in his department they are still in power."

The former Chancellor Kenneth Clarke (C, Rushcliffe) told Mr Brown that public sector borrowing was reducing "at a very rapid rate and likely to hit a period of debt repayment which you never intended. This underlines that your July Budget was quite unnecessary."

Mr Brown should stop reviving the myth that the

last Government was "a prodigious big spender" and justify his plans by referring to the economic situation of the late 1980s, "where circumstances bore no relation to where they are now".

He asked: "Don't you accept you inherited sustainable growth with low inflation, falling unemployment, and public finances which have surprised you by how rapidly they are improving?"

Mr Brown told Mr Clarke: "We are not going to take any lectures from a Chancellor who should have raised interest rates before the election but did not do so for political reasons."

Audrey Wise (Lab, Preston) told the Chancellor that his own figures showed that it was not necessary to abolish benefits for lone parents. She said: "In view of the fact that abolishing this benefit would impoverish the poorest children, deepen the poverty trap and is a discouragement to work, can I ask him to look again at this matter?"

Mr Brown replied that child benefit was rising and that the Government's priority was to get lone parents back to work.

Ken Livingstone (Lab, Brent East) claimed Britain's economy was in danger of slowing down to the point of recession over the next few years. "Aren't we facing a major balance of payments crisis unless the Chancellor can do something to bring down the value of the pound — and that means tackling interest rates?"

They are of no help at all to most pensioners, including the million not getting their income support entitlements, no help to those on the margins of poverty and of doubtful help even to those who do qualify who often don't know whether they can afford to spend extra money on fuel when it is cold.

The Secretary of State for Social Security and I are simply not prepared to allow another winter to go by when pensioners are fearful of turning up their heating even in the coldest winter days because they do not know whether they will have the help they need for their fuel bills.

For this winter and next every pensioner household will receive £20 extra to help with their bills. And every pensioner household on income support — nearly 2 million — will receive £50 extra. The cost will be met from reallocating the savings on our contributions to the European budget and the money will be paid in time.

Who says you can't predict the future?

The Millennium Bond

14.40%
gross rate after two years

There's no such thing as an uncertain future with a NatWest Millennium Bond. That's because our attractive interest rates are fixed from the start, so your money is guaranteed to keep on growing.

Whatever your dream — the trip of a lifetime, a day your family will remember forever or giving someone special a head start in life — a NatWest Millennium Bond could help you make it come true.

You can choose to receive your interest monthly or annually. Alternatively, you can let

your savings accumulate over the full two year term of the bond for a return even higher than the figure above. Whether you want to save from £2,000 to £250,000, the NatWest Millennium Bond is for you.

If you'd like more information, call us now or pop into your local NatWest branch. The sooner you do, the sooner you can stop dreaming.

Call 0800 200 400

MON TO FRI 9.00am TO 5.00pm SAT 10.00am TO 4.00pm

NatWest
More than just a bank

Where appropriate, special rate tax incentives may be available from the interest paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise, (for example, subject to the required registration form), interest will be paid net of basic rate tax. All rates are subject to variation but are fixed from when you take out the bond.

...vies' add
...ative eff
...e accoun



enefits may

cover
you
need.

0800 670 670
NATWEST NATIONAL

'Luvvies' add their creative effort to the accounting

LABOUR "luvvies" have already tasted the fruits of power over wine and canapes at Number 10 parties with Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Now the Prime Minister is now treating the best of Britain's artists — musicians, broadcasters, designers, film directors, as well as inventors and scientists — to a banquet of influence inside his Government as the creative arts become a mainstream force in economic policy.

Mr Blair showed his commitment to the rebranding of Britain when he invited Sir Terence Conran to transform a floor of Canary Wharf tower in London's Docklands to host the Anglo-French summit two weeks ago.

Yesterday it was the turn of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to spell out his vision for British creative talents to become world market leaders in their fields. Mr Brown also suggested that the Government might take a share in the success by forming partnerships with creative companies.

He has already taken action to help the film industry, but yesterday told MPs: "It is time to do more to encourage other creative industries where from science, computer software and communications to design, fashion and music, our British genius for creativity has made Britain a world

Valerie Elliott reports on the hopes that a new force can give drive to economic policy

leader." He promised to help artists young and old to foster their creative talents by allowing them to apply for grants under the new National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts.

The awards will be made from the £1 billion raised from the National Lottery proceeds to invest in new opportunities. Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, is to reveal the precise amount of cash and the legal framework in which Nesta will operate when he publishes the Lottery Reform Bill next month. But he said last night that he hoped the first grants would be on offer by the end of next year.

The aim of the grant is also to help budding entrepreneurs market and produce their goods.

Ministers are already working on plans to help the

industries compete on world markets and in particular to stamp out piracy of British copyright.

Chris Smith said last night they were particularly concerned at the piracy of CDs in the Far East and Eastern Europe, and that the Government was determined to establish international protection for intellectual property and copyright.

He has already announced a new Creative Industries Taskforce which includes Richard Branson, the film-maker Lord Putnam, and Alan McGee of Creation Records, Oasis's record label, and this issue dominated their first meeting last month.

Just as the British music industry has enjoyed huge commercial success, worldwide, ministers hope to achieve the same for other industries, particularly computer graphics, and the designers of sophisticated software.

Mr Smith also said the group were concerned that the various media courses on offer in further and higher education colleges could be better designed to meet the needs of the industry.

But he was clearly delighted that the Chancellor had flagged up the creative arts in his pre-Budget speech: "This shows just how serious we are on the importance of creative industries and proves it is very much in the higher reaches of the Chancellor's mind as well as my own."

Mr Smith hopes the British presidency of the EC will also allow the Government to have a vital role in shaping the future of television and film in Europe.

He is to host an EC audiovisual conference in Birmingham in April, that will provide a showcase for British media and design industries.

Arts, pages 38-40



"AND NOW THAT YOU'RE ON A TRAINING SCHEME AND HAVE A BABY MINDER, IT'S LIKE A HOLIDAY ON THE COSTA DEL SOL IN HERE."

Green campaigners criticise VAT move

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A CUT in the VAT on insulation materials used in home energy efficiency schemes was announced by the Chancellor yesterday.

Claiming it to be part of the Government's new green credentials, he said the rate of tax was being cut to 5 per cent to bring the rate in line with the VAT charged on energy use through electricity and gas bills.

Gordon Brown said that the move, which will cost the Exchequer £2.5 million, emphasised the Government's commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

It will increase by 48,000 the number of low income homes that get insulated under government-backed programmes.

The Chancellor said that the Government would, in the light of decisions to be taken at next week's Kyoto summit on climate change, look at "how the tax system can reflect our environmental objectives".

He added: "In this pre-Budget statement we are consulting in all areas where it is right and appropriate to consult. We are taking action in all these areas where action is needed immediately and we are putting to the country the

choices that can only be made by all of us," he said.

Following a review by Customs and Excise I have decided that VAT on the installation of energy-saving material, under existing grant schemes such as the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, will be cut from 17 per cent to 5 per cent. This will mean the funds under this scheme will go further and will help to insulate 48,000 more homes per year.

Environmental campaigners claimed the move did not go far enough.

In 1996, the Shadow Cabinet had said it wanted to cut VAT on all energy-saving goods sharply.

Charities for the elderly welcome extra fuel payments

By Joanna Bale

CHARITIES and organisations that support the elderly welcomed the Chancellor's plans to give extra money to pensioners for their winter fuel bills yesterday.

All pensioner households will receive an extra £20 and nearly 1.7 million pensioner households on income support will receive £30. This will be a single pay-out, regardless of weather.

Mervyn Kohler, Help the Aged's head of public affairs, said it was "delighted that the Chancellor has found extra money for the problems that older people face each winter and is starting to address the issue seriously. The extra cash is going to be very helpful and will ease the minds of many older people this winter."

Mr Kohler said the main issue for pensioners was making their homes warmer and more efficient to heat. He added: "The VAT announcement on energy-saving materials is a useful step forward."

Jack Jones, of the National Pensioners' Convention, said: "This is very welcome indeed at the outset of the cold weather. Twenty pounds extra for a pensioner household is going to be very helpful for the two million pensioners who live on their own over the age of 75 and, of course, for those on Income Support it will mean £50."

The former Transport Union leader added: "It will mean they will be assured the money before suffering the severe weather."

Sally Greengross, director general of Age Concern England, said: "We are delighted that the Government has responded to pressure from Age Concern to recognise pensioners' need for extra financial help with heating bills throughout the winter months. The planned pay-

ments will help the poorest pensioners through the coldest months of the year. It lessens the stark choice between food and fuel."

She said that last year 46,208 more people over the age of 60 died during the winter months than during the summer. "We hope that the Government will continue to act to reduce this death toll."

The charity also welcomed the reduction of VAT on energy-saving materials and the Government's recognition of the need to tackle the problem of pensioners not claiming benefit to which they are entitled.

There are an estimated 11 million pensioners receiving state retirement pension and an estimated seven million pensioner households, all of which will be entitled to the extra help with fuel bills.

It was not immediately clear how the new winter payments would be handed out. Making the £20 payment to all pensioner households, not just people on income support, is going to present special problems. About a million pensioners are not claiming income support to which they are entitled.

A spokeswoman for Age Concern England said: "They will have to reach people they don't normally reach. It could be done in a variety of ways, for instance through pension books. We are trying to find out what is planned at the moment. It's going to be an interesting task having to reach all those people."

Pensioners on income support are already eligible for cold weather payments of £8.50 when the average temperature at a specified weather station has been recorded at, or is forecast to be, zero degrees centigrade or below over seven consecutive days.

Benefits may be replaced by income tax credits

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN announced yesterday that he intended to go ahead with integrating the tax and benefit systems as part of a comprehensive reform of the welfare state.

While giving few details about how this would work, the Chancellor said that the aim was to ensure that families would be better off in work than they would be on benefits.

The plans, which are being worked out by Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays Bank, as part of an internal Treasury review, are expected to include a tax credit for working families. This could involve transforming the present Family Credit benefit payment into a tax credit. The payment would be made to families on low incomes, directly through the pay packet.

Mr Brown argued that a tax credit would have higher take-up than a welfare benefit and would give an additional incentive to take

a job. "I want everyone who can work to be better off in work than on benefit. So the Government now proposes an integrated tax and benefit plan involving action at every level."

Any programme for welfare reform drawn up by Mr Taylor will, however, have to fit with ideas now being worked up by Frank Field, the Welfare Minister. Both Mr Field and Gordon Brown are determined to end the poverty traps which can mean that people lose so much of their benefit when they

take on work, that they are better off on the dole. Mr Brown made clear in his Commons statement that he will announce further changes to the benefit tapers — the scale at which money is taken away, once the claimant finds work. The Chancellor repeated his intention to introduce a 10p starting tax rate, which he said would also benefit poorer groups but he refused to say when this would be introduced. The poor would benefit more from the lower starting rate if the benefit tapers were more

gradual. "To maximise the rewards from work, a 10p starting rate of tax and a reform of benefit tapers will be introduced when it is prudent to do so."

The Chancellor also intend to make changes to the structure of national insurance contributions which now places a heavier burden on the low paid. The pre-Budget report says there is scope for bringing the national insurance structure more into line with income tax to ease administrative burdens on employers.

Under his plans the poorest people could be £5 a week better off. Under present rules, each person has an income tax allowance for this financial year of £4,045 and a National Insurance allowance of £3,224. Anyone who earns below £77 a week pays no income tax, and when they begin to earn more than £77 a week they pay income tax only on the difference. However, they have to pay national insurance contributions on all earnings once they are being paid more than £62 a week.



Taylor: working on Treasury review

Only pay for the

cover you need.

Home Insurance DIRECT CALL FREE

0800 670 670

↑ ABBEY NATIONAL

Because life's complicated enough.

Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm and Saturday 9am to 6pm. To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Abbey National and the Umbrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, registered office, Abbey House, 215-229 Baker Street, London NW1 6AT. Registered in England & Wales. Registered Number 2294747.

Populist goes for the eye-catching in event of little substance

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

IF Gordon Brown wants to be regarded as an Iron Chancellor, he should not at the same time be trying to win easy newspaper headlines as a populist Santa Claus. The two main announcements that won the cheers of Labour MPs, on childcare and providing help for pensioners' heating bills, are, however, merited, being financed in gimmicky ways that should have horrified the Treasury. The first will be funded by another raid on the National Lottery (again abusing its role of not financing core programmes), and the second by an unexpected shortfall in payments to the European Union (a traditionally erratic item).

His statement yesterday was a characteristic Brown mixture of campaigning rhetoric (the "people's priorities" and similar drive), sensible analysis of the fiscal outlook in the Treasury's Pre-Budget Report, another round of half-hidden tax rises (by abolishing Advance Corporation Tax), further outlines of his welfare reform strategy, and vague aspirations elsewhere.

But yesterday was not a genuine consultative exercise. Mr Brown either did not set out real options or he already has a firm view where he intends to go — as in his Welfare to Work plans. The most interesting part of his statement was the discussion of employment. Mr Brown believes that the way to relieve poverty is to give people jobs rather than to extend benefits. Even though he offered few new details, Mr Brown re-

peated his determination to press ahead with a 10p starting rate of tax, reform of benefit tapers, a working families tax credit and affordable childcare. This could in time lead to a fundamental reshaping of the welfare system.

But Mr Brown had little to say on tax reform apart from corporation tax. There was no discussion of the balance between different types of tax, for instance the role of expen-

Yesterday's event was typical of the Government's style

diture taxes and personal tax allowances, though we will have details on the individual savings account in a week.

But the main disappointment is the absence of any discussion of what the Government does, or what size the state should be. That was perhaps inherent since the comprehensive spending review will not be completed until next summer. So Mr Brown does not yet know what scope there is for overall savings or for reallocation between programmes. As it is, the Treasury's Pre-Budget Report projects a steady decline

in the share of public spending in national income over the course of this parliament. However, the tax burden is projected to continue to rise from 36.7 per cent this year to 38.2 per cent by the likely election year.

Let anyone think that the forecasts of a return to surplus within three years are a cause for relaxation. Mr Brown rightly warned that the underlying structural deficit (adjusting for the strength of the economy) may be larger. He pointed to the lessons of 1988 "when it was wrongly assumed that the structural deficit had disappeared and the penalty was the return of boom and bust". The Government's proposed Code for Fiscal Stability will not ensure fiscal virtue: such codes never can. But by providing more information and discussion of a wider range of possibilities, it may broaden the public debate and will serve a purpose if it helps deter the type of damaging tax cuts seen in 1988 and 1993.

Yesterday's event was typical of the Government's style — eye-catching, but essentially minor announcements intended to please Labour MPs and the press, but a reluctance to discuss longer-term strategy in any but vague terms. Decisions and presentation are still determined by the habits of Opposition. The Government behaves as if the election was in six months rather than four years. Mr Brown can do better than yesterday's slogans.

PETER RIDDELL

Servital

Can you challenge the ageing of the skin?

The Facts

1. As skin ages the wrinkling process speeds up. At the age of 40 a woman's skin is 40% more wrinkled than a man's, and at 60 is 75% more wrinkled. Why? Because a woman's skin is one third thinner.
2. "Servital" product showed a mean increase in epidermal thickness by 26%. The significance of this being an increase in epidermal thickness of a 53 year old quantitatively equivalent to the average skin of a 20 year old.

Independently clinically tested.
Tissue Viability Unit.

Published and verified by an international "peer reviewed" medical journal.
The International Journal of Aesthetic and Restorative Surgery (December 1996).

Servital™ has a patent pending formula designed to "intelligently" help maintain and restore a younger skin thickness, to physically slow the "Natural" thinning and wrinkling process of the skin.

Servital™ Clinical Proof. You decide.

Copies of test available from Syence upon request.

Select Salons now stocking Syence include:

REGIS essence Salons
Simpsons - Piccadilly, Dickens & Jones - Central London & Richmond, Aldes - Croydon, Farwick - Tunbridge Wells, Frasers - Glasgow, Jenners - Edinburgh and other selected independent Beauty Salons.

Or London Cosmetic departments include:
Harrods - Knightsbridge, Fenwick - Bond St, Benetton - King's Cross/Lakeland, House of Fraser, Arny & Navy - Guildford, John Ball Croydon - Wigmom St.

Freephone: 0800 838670
for information, Closest Stockists or to order.

SYENCE
New York NY 10022

I saw Winnie stab youth, says witness

DETAILS of the last hours in the life of teenage township activist Stompie Seipei emerged yesterday as a former member of the Mandela United Football Club came out of hiding in Britain and said he saw Winnie Madikizela-Mandela plunge a "sharp object" twice into his tortured body.

Katiza Cebekhulu, 27, said he had seen Stompie, 14, carried from a back room of Mrs Mandela's Soweto mansion, and laid out by a jacuzzi where she stabbed him twice with a "sharp object".

"I saw her killing Stompie," he said, pointing at Mrs Mandela, who looked on sternly.

After witnessing the stabbing, which came after three days of torture by Mrs Mandela, Mr Cebekhulu was smuggled out of the country to prevent him testifying against Nelson Mandela's former wife in her 1991 trial over the Stompie case.

Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, the former Liberal Democrat MP, has been shel-



A growing number of Mrs Mandela's former friends are lining up to accuse her of murder in the townships, Sam Kiley reports from Johannesburg

tering Mr Cebekhulu in Devon and appeared with him at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission yesterday.

Lady Nicholson said she had been told by Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia's former President, that he had been asked by the African National Congress to "absorb" Mr Cebekhulu, to prevent him testifying against Mrs Mandela at her trial in 1991.

The ANC-led Government is expected to send several ministers to explain the party's role in the cover-up.

"When [Dr Kaunda] was still President in 1991 he received a call from Oliver

Tambo [President of the Lusaka-based ANC] and asked if he could look after someone who would lose his life if he stayed in South Africa," Lady Nicholson said.

Mr Cebekhulu, was smuggled out via Mozambique and Angola before he was taken to Lusaka by ANC agents and imprisoned for 2½ years. Mrs Mandela was fined after being convicted of kidnapping and assault.

But yesterday the commission heard from several witnesses that she had been present when Stompie and three other young men were brought to her home and

beaten up so that they would "confess" to having been sexually assaulted by the Rev Paul Verryn, a Methodist minister in Soweto who was sheltering ANC activists.

The motive for Mrs Mandela's campaign against the minister, now Bishop of Johannesburg, remain obscure. But the commission was told that Stompie was killed because he had been accused of being an *impimpi*, a police informer.

Mr Cebekhulu pointed at Mrs Mandela and, striking the table in front of him with a pen, said: "she stabbed him with a sharp object... which shined".

Mr Cebekhulu also told how he saw Mrs Mandela using a whip to beat Lolo Sono, another activist accused of being an informer.

"I saw him in the garage of Mrs Mandela's home. Winnie was beating him with a sjambok. He was lying on the concrete floor trying to protect his face and bleeding from the mouth," he told the commission, set up to investigate



Katiza Cebekhulu, watched by Lady Nicholson, who sheltered him, taking the oath in Johannesburg yesterday

human rights abuses in South Africa between 1960 and 1994.

Mr Cebekhulu said that later Sono was taken away in a minibus by Mrs Mandela and other members of the

"football club", her gang of bodyguards, and was never seen again.

Mrs Mandela, 63, had not applied to the commission for amnesty. If it gives credence to

the evidence of a growing number of former friends and associates, she could face criminal prosecution for up to 13 murders and numerous counts of torture.

Kotiswa Falati, 45, who testified in the 1991 trial that Mrs Mandela had been in Brandfort, Orange Free State, at the time of Stompie's death, said yesterday she had lied in court to protect her "com-

mander" from prosecution. "Now that we have a democratic government, I am determined to tell the truth," Mrs Falati said.

A loud and passionate witness, Mrs Falati was also convicted of kidnapping and assaulting Stompie.

Mrs Mandela gestured that Mrs Falati was insane and smiled through most of her testimony.



Kotiswa Falati gives testimony against Mrs Mandela

Expert cancer care means nothing if you can't afford to get to it.



For some, the right cancer care is not always locally available. Every year, Macmillan Cancer Relief give emergency grants for travel related expenses to patients experiencing financial difficulties. We need your support. To make a donation please call free on 0500 800 111.

Macmillan cancer relief

WORLD IN BRIEF

Nine die as boat drifts 1,800 miles

Auckland: A one-hour sailing trip turned into a nine-week fight for survival for a group of about 13 Indonesians when their sail was destroyed in a storm. A man and three women were recovering in a Micronesian hospital yesterday after drifting for 1,800 miles. The rest were swept overboard or starved to death. The US Coast Guard in Guam said the 35ft wooden boat left Manado in Sulawesi on September 13. It was found on Monday 320 miles southwest of Chuuk in Micronesia with five survivors on board, but a woman died soon afterwards.

It was the second time in a month that an Indonesian boat has drifted to the Federated States of Micronesia. On October 23 six Indonesians were rescued having been carried on the area's unpredictable Equatorial Counter Current for three months after their boat's engine failed. One person died. (AFP)

Blair pledge to South Africa

London: Tony Blair promised Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's deputy President, that Britain would use its European Union presidency to sign a new EU-South Africa agreement (Michael Binyon writes). At the first meeting of the UK/SA Bilateral Forum he also signed an investment promotion and protection agreement. Britain is South Africa's largest trading partner.

Hillary's plea for Everest

Denver: Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to conquer Mount Everest, right, says the Nepalese Government should restrict the number of climbers allowed on the peak. In Denver for a speech, Sir Edmund, who with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first person to climb the 29,078ft peak in 1953, said: "Now people will pay \$65,000 (£38,000) to be inducted up to the top. The guides will sometimes take risks they shouldn't because of the financial motivation." (AP)



Villagers steal from the dying

Bangkok: Villagers near Pichit, northern Thailand, stole from victims of a bus crash in which 24 people died and 60 were injured, police said (Andrew Drummond writes). One victim was said to have begged: "I'm not dead yet. Please help me", while passengers' belongings were ransacked. A large amount of cash is believed to have been stolen from an injured monk.

Ban on Afghan women lifted

Geneva: The fundamentalist Muslim Taliban has reversed a policy of denying women access to most hospitals in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. Bans imposed in September provoked protests from humanitarian organisations, and the Red Cross had threatened to stop supporting the two main hospitals in Kabul. (AFP)

16 inmates die in jail blaze

Maracaibo: Sixteen inmates were killed and 32 injured by a fire in an overcrowded cell in a maximum security Venezuelan jail, authorities said. The blaze at La Sabana prison in the western Zulia state was caused by an electrical short circuit, and spread when inmates' bedsheets caught fire. Only four of the 16 dead had been sentenced. (Reuters).

Witches curse the taxman

Budapest: The Alliance of Hungarian Witches, registered as a religious denomination since 1992, went on trial here accused of not paying taxes on proceeds from its services. The 8,300-member group claims the same state budget subsidies and tax-free status as other denominations in Hungary. (AP)

Ruling sex addressee on Ch...

IMF is a £43bn

Corruption



House coral tal



Eastwood: talent for terse philosophy

Outlaw actor takes aim at lawmen

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE most famous mayor elected by the town of Carmel has returned recently to politics, scolding the Clintons for meddling with films and castigating Congress as a self-interested group of lawyers.

Clint Eastwood, who has a new film to promote, prompted speculation as mayor of his California home town in the 1980s that he might follow Ronald Reagan in seeking higher office. So far he has not, but an interview in *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday showed that his screen talent for terse philosophy endures in real life.

Some barbs were aimed directly at the White House. "Cigarettes kill people," Mr. Eastwood said. "But so does booze and fat food. The President, who likes his hamburgers, is sitting there with his cholesterol. Nobody bans that kind of food. Why not?"

The hero of *Dirty Harry* and *The Outlaw Josey Wales* left no doubt that his day had been spent by the Clintons' recent plea for Hollywood to stop depicting smoking as fashionable.

The tobacco industry had become "a whipping boy for politicians," he said. "The President and First Lady burn-rapping a movie — what the hell? It's just a flick."

Mr. Eastwood, 67, usually calls himself a political libertarian. Though a registered Republican for 45 years, staunch views on abortion and politicians have prevented him from taking on a more prominent political role.

He told an interviewer earlier this year that abortion should be "an individual decision. I don't believe organisations should start taking over the decision-making process for the individual."

Asked about his political ideal, he said: "Everyone leaves everyone else alone. Neither party seems to have the ability to embrace that sort of thing."

Mr. Eastwood was especially critical of his own party for failing to enact reforms. "Congress is never going to do it because they're all lawyers themselves — both sides of the aisle," he said.

"I'm sure if somebody said to Humphrey Bogart to stop smoking in movies, he'd have told them to go screw themselves. We don't seem to have people taking that kind of a position today."

Ruling in sex case adds to pressure on Clinton

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A FEDERAL judge has allowed Paula Jones to amend her harassment action against President Clinton, effectively placing her own sexual history off limits to questioning by his lawyers.

This development in the case, expected to go to trial in May, came amid reports that Mrs. Jones's lawyers want to talk to another woman alleged to have had an affair with Mr. Clinton as recently as the month of his first presidential inauguration.

At least three other women have been subpoenaed to give evidence on behalf of Mrs. Jones to prove what her lawyers describe as a pattern of conduct.

In a move which further heated the case yesterday, Judge Susan Webber Wright agreed that Mrs. Jones may drop her defamation claim against Danny Ferguson, the Arkansas state trooper who claimed that she wanted to become Mr. Clinton's mistress after an alleged sexual encounter with him in a hotel room in 1991.

Mrs. Jones, a former state employee, claims she was led to a room at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock where Mr. Clinton, then the Governor, dropped his trousers and demanded that she perform oral sex. He has denied ever meeting Mrs. Jones while he was Governor. Lawyers for Mr.

Ferguson had used the defamation claim, as justification for questioning potential witnesses about Mrs. Jones's sexual and employment history, information that could have been used by Mr. Clinton's lawyers.

In making her decision, the judge further upset the Clinton camp by allowing Mrs. Jones to include three further claims in her legal action. She is seeking to bring allegations that Mr. Clinton granted employment and government benefits to other women who submitted to his demands for sexual favours.

Mrs. Jones also claims that she felt she was in a hostile environment because other women who gave in to Mr. Clinton were granted benefits that she was denied. A third claim alleges that Mrs. Jones was denied her right to free speech by virtue of Mr. Clinton's "overt and covert" warnings.

The *New York Post* reported yesterday that Mrs. Jones's lawyers in Dallas are seeking to interview an employee of the Entergy-Arkansas power company in Little Rock, but that the woman had refused to be questioned.

Judge Wright is expected soon to rule on whether this woman, alleged to have had an affair with Mr. Clinton as late as January 1993, will be compelled to give evidence.



Captain Winston Scott, left, and Takao Doi, a Japanese astronaut, prepare to retrieve an errant science satellite yesterday and place it in the payload bay of the space shuttle Columbia. Precision flying by the shuttle commander and the space walkers' skill prevented the satellite from becoming costly space junk (Ian Brodie writes). Kevin Kregel, the

Shuttle crew retrieves satellite

commander, positioned Columbia in perfect alignment with the satellite while Captain Scott, and Mr. Doi snared it with their gloved hands. The pair waited on opposite sides of the shuttle's open cargo hold, their feet held by "stirrups" as spacecraft

and satellite orbited at 17,500mph 175 miles above Earth.

Nasa's concern had been the risk of collision. The satellite and shuttle flew in close formation for 90 minutes before they were correctly positioned. At that moment, the two astronauts

leaned forward, using timing and skill rather than strength to capture the satellite, a 5ft cube weighing one and a half tons with an 11ft solar telescope protruding through both sides. After running tests, Nasa will decide whether to redeploy it towards the end of the shuttle's 16-day mission. Its purpose is to study the fiery outer layers of the Sun's atmosphere.

Mars detective work puts lost vehicle in the frame

BY ANJANA AHUJA

IN A painstaking piece of detective work, a geographer in Canada has pinpointed the location on Mars of the Viking 2 lander "lost" by Nasa shortly after it touched down on the surface of the Red Planet in 1976.

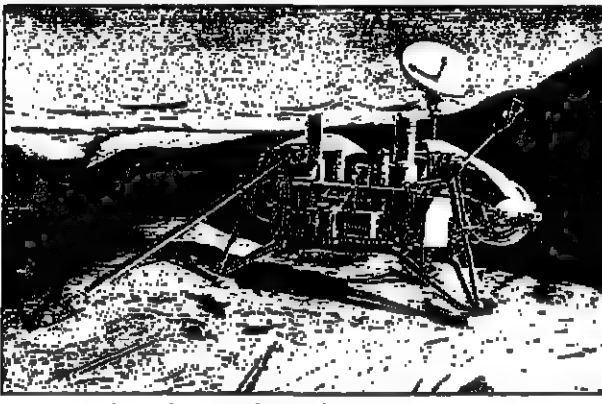
The last pictures it beamed back to Earth showed a pancake-flat landscape for miles around and that lack of distinguishing features made it impossible for Mission Control to pinpoint Viking 2's final resting place. Nasa, which

identified a 100-square-kilometre patch where it could be resting, eventually gave up.

Dr. Phil Stooke, from the University of Western Ontario, used more advanced techniques to scan the last images. He took a strip of the horizon and stretched it upwards to magnify any subtle bumps. His ingenuity paid off when he found two distant small hills. He then flicked through pictures sent back by the Viking orbiter, which had circled the planet while the lander sat on the surface recording the landscape. Dr.

Stooke found what looked like the same two hills in the orbiter images. The Viking 2 lander was stranded near a crater-topped mountain called Goldstone, in the southern part of the planet. "It was a just a matter of matching patterns," he said. When told of the discovery, Dr. Dave Pieri, a Nasa geologist who worked on the Viking mission, said it felt like finding a lost child.

There are two other landers on Mars — Viking 1 from July 1976 and this July's *Sojourner* rover. Each is near distinctive ridges and craters.



An artist's impression of the Viking 2 lander

IMF is asked for record £43bn to bail out Asia

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN VANCOUVER

LEADERS of the 18 Apec countries were yesterday set to back an ambitious regional stabilisation plan despite disagreement about each country's contribution and fears that belt-tightening will cause political unrest.

"There is no doubt that the fundamentals for long-term growth and prospects for the region are exceptionally strong," the draft communiqué for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum said. "We remain convinced that open markets bring significant benefits and we will continue to pursue trade and investment liberalisation that fosters further growth."

The plan to prevent the Asian financial crisis from spreading to the world's markets gives the central role to the International Monetary Fund. In the most expensive rescue package of its 53-year history, it is likely to be asked formally for at least \$70 billion (£43 billion) to bail out Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines

and South Korea. An IMF team arrived yesterday in South Korea, the largest of South-East Asia's "tiger" economies, to assess whether \$20 billion would be enough to bring about financial stability in the face of the country's short-term debts of \$60 billion.

The crisis, which began in Thailand in July, has led to plummeting currencies and stock markets, undermining the security for debt and making it harder for countries to meet their foreign debts.

Under Apec's plan, known as the "Manila framework" after an emergency meeting last week, the IMF will have primary responsibility for the rescue, but there is the possibility of support from richer countries such as the US and Japan.

However, America and Japan appeared to differ on whether Tokyo should be expected to play a leading role in helping the region as well as itself. Yesterday President Clinton said Japan could help

to lead Asia out of the crisis. But earlier, Koji Tsuruoka, director of one of Japan's North American policy divisions, said the best thing Japan could do to help Asia was "to address our own problems". He added that the US was "reasonably accurate" in fearing the drop in the yen against the dollar would lead to a worsening of the US trade deficit with Japan.

The US won small comfort from Japan's agreement to loosen the red tape which makes it hard for foreigners to do business. Japan said it expects to demonstrate progress by the Group of Seven meeting of the big industrial powers in Birmingham in May.

But US officials leave Vancouver today with their biggest fears unassuaged: whether the austerity measures imposed by the IMF as a condition for its loans will convert the economic crisis into political turmoil.

Simon Jenkins, page 22

Corruption warning for China



Lau Asia's 'dark side'

Sydney: A leading Hong Kong politician said yesterday that the Southeast Asian financial crisis revealed the "dark side" of Asian values, such as cronyism and political corruption. Emily Lau, leader of the pro-democracy Frontier group, said the turmoil in Asian markets and its worldwide fall-out demonstrated the need to ensure Hong Kong's political and economic accountability.

She said that widespread corruption in mainland China could filter into the former

British territory after legislative elections in May.

Ms Lau, on a four-day visit to Sydney, said Beijing and Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's new chief executive, had aspired to the "economic authoritarianism" of Southeast Asian nations. "One hopes that the financial turmoil will make the Chinese Government realise that, in order to sustain a strong and vibrant economy, open and accountable political and institutional governance is essential," she said. (Reuters)

Hothouse coral takes heat off reefs

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN scientists are rescuing the world's reefs from erosion — by growing coral under arc lights in Pittsburgh zoo greenhouses, thousands of miles from the beaches of California and the Caribbean.

The New Jersey zoo is at the cutting edge of a project to halt a decline in marine life caused by the plundering of coral reefs to satisfy pet shops, aquariums and medical research.

"Other institutions are just starting to get into this. If we can do it here, we can be a good role model for everyone else," said Jim Prappas, curator of the Aqua-Zoo, which now houses America's largest coral collection. The Pittsburgh team

launched its coral propagation programme in conjunction with organisers of the International Year of the Reef. It hopes it is weeks away from reducing by as much as 25 per cent the amount of coral taken from the wild.

Although coral mining is outlawed in American waters, it is widely practised elsewhere. Fewer than a third of reefs are in a stable condition, according to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, and another 30 per cent are expected to decline in the next 20 years. Mr. Prappas said the zoo was supplying free coral to institutions for exhibits and should start selling to shops and researchers within months.

Beijing: Chinese scientists plan to try to clone the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey,

also known as the golden monkey, which is on the brink of extinction, according to a *People's Daily* article quoted yesterday by the official Xinhua news agency.

It said that scientists at Kunming Zoological Research Institute "are using advanced technology to research hereditary features of the primate in preparation for the cloning".

Thirteen of the monkeys have been bred in captivity since 1994, the report said. Special reserves have also been set up. "However, we are still facing damage to the monkey's habitats caused by excessive lumbering and a shortage of research funds," said Ji Weizhi, institute director, explaining the need for cloning.

Leading article, page 23

WHEN WE SAY UP TO 7.50% GROSS PA* OUR WORD IS OUR BOND.

2 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND		
	Gross Paid Annually*	Gross Paid Monthly*
£500-£500,000	7.50%	7.25%
1 YEAR FIXED RATE BOND		
£500-£500,000	7.25%	7.02%

Invest as little as £500 and you can get a guaranteed return for either 1 or 2 years with the flexibility of monthly or annual interest payments. No withdrawals are permitted during the term.

Offers are limited and may be withdrawn at any time, so send in the coupon with your cheque today to Woolwich plc, FREEPOST (DT98), Kingswood House, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4BR. Alternatively, call in to any Woolwich branch or call us free anytime on 0800 22 22 00 quoting ref: TE2611. For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded.

<http://www.woolwich.co.uk>

Get much more with the Woolwich WOOLWICH

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

- Please send me further details of the Woolwich Fixed Rate Bonds ☐
- I/We enclose a cheque for £_____ to invest in a Woolwich 1 year Fixed Rate Bond. (minimum £500) ☐
- I/We enclose a cheque for £_____ to invest in a Woolwich 2 year Fixed Rate Bond. (minimum £500) ☐

Cheques made payable to Woolwich plc. Interest to be paid annually/monthly (delete as appropriate)

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Date of Birth

Signed

Please send to Woolwich plc, FREEPOST, DT98, Kingswood House, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 4BR or phone free on 0800 22 22 00

*Interest will be payable net of the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%), or subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower or basic tax bands, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Rates are fixed for 1 year/2 years respectively from the date the account is opened. Interest will be calculated daily, from the day of receipt in the case of a deposit by cheque. No withdrawals are permitted during the term. Additional investments are permitted only while this issue of the Bond is still on offer. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Woolwich branch. Registered Office: Woolwich plc, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. Registered in England no. 3295699. FR26

Butchers have bone to pick with news reporters

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FRENCH butchers, revealing an unexpectedly sensitive side, have demanded that journalists stop using the word "butchery" whenever they describe a massacre because it is giving their trade a bad name.

In a statement addressed to "Messieurs et Mesdames les journalistes" yesterday, the butchers' federation said that "an entire, innocent profession is being injured" because of the media's tendency to describe every murderer as a "butcher" and every mass killing as an act of "butchery".

The recent massacres at Lou or, the continued killings in Algeria, the trial of Maurice Papon for crimes against humanity and the hunt for a serial killer in eastern Paris have kept the word "butcher" on the front page of French newspapers in recent weeks, and now the men and women who provide France with their steaks have had enough.

The federation said it had received many letters from its 22,000 members, complaining that they feel aggrieved by being constantly associated with the world's nastiest news events. "The butcher distributes the meat which is consumed along with bread and wine. His role evokes peace and fraternity. There is nothing of the executioner or torturer about him. The butcher is an artisan, proud of his job," the federation said.

"We agree that these horrors and the perpetrators of these odious crimes must be condemned," the butchers said, but urged journalists "whose vocabulary has failed them" to use other terms to denounce the criminals.

The organisation listed a series of synonyms for "butcher" as a service for journalists too lazy to think up their own. "Rather than use the word 'butcher', would it not be fairer to use cruel, bloody, barbaric, ferocious, savage, etc?" the statement asked. In place of "butchery", the federation offered: carnage, killing, massacre or slaughter.

Air attack on rabies brings hidden peril

RABIES is on the retreat in continental Europe, thanks to huge quantities of vaccine dropped on woodland by aircraft.

But German animal biologists are warning that the decline may be matched by an even more insidious disease caused by a tapeworm, which flourishes in the rapidly increasing fox population and can be transmitted to humans.

World Health Organisation figures show how effective the campaign against rabies has been over the past decade. In 1983 there were more than 9,000 registered cases of rabies among animals in Germany. Last year the number had dropped to 153, and this year experts expect only around 70.

Statistics comparing the first quarter of 1983 (just before the aerial vaccination began) with the first quarter of this year are even more remarkable. Seriously affected areas like France, Belgium, Switzerland and northern Italy are now almost free of the disease. "In the whole of Europe rabies is now close to extinction," says Dr Winfried Müller, of the federal research agency into animal viral diseases.

The key to this has been the vaccination campaign.

Foxes are lapping up vaccine dropped by aircraft. But their rising numbers pose a new threat, says Roger Boyes

Around six million capsules a year are dropped in Germany alone. Coated with fish essence, they are attractive to foxes, which puzzle them happily and are now increasingly immune to the disease.

At the beginning of the century rabies was spread by wild dogs which had to be hunted down; this is still the case in many developing countries. After the Second World War, a mutated rabies virus infected Polish foxes. This spread westwards at around 30 miles a year, and rabies became a feature of central Europe.

Traditional culling by farmers, hunters or poison gas (pumped into "fox" dens) made little impact. Only the air-dropped vaccine has shown significant results.

German scientists have noted, however, that once the vaccination is suspended — as it was by cash-strapped regions of Germany in 1994 — rabies rapidly returns. The fox population has increased between three and five-fold — as is immediately evident to anyone walking in the Black Forest. So many are now straying into urban areas that the anti-rabies vaccine has had to be placed in some city parks.

The foxes have brought with them a secondary problem: a disease caused by a tapeworm and carried by the fox that can lead to a death every bit as painful (albeit far slower) than rabies.

Dr Ferdinand Rühle, a leading animal biologist from Göttingen, says: "The vaccination of foxes has encouraged a parasite that is an even more serious threat to us today than rabies."

Not all biologists agree about the dimensions of the problem and the long incubation time makes it difficult to prove the connection between the beginning of the mass anti-rabies campaign and the increased incidence of the parasite.

"Unfortunately we do not yet have reliable data about the spread of this highly dangerous parasite," says Professor Peter Kern, who has been treating patients afflicted with the parasite — *Echinococcus granulosus*.

First tests do suggest though that many more people have been infected than previously suspected, especially in southern Germany.

The fox takes in the tapeworm when eating dead sheep or other animals. The larva is excreted by the fox and the parasite's eggs, which are very light, float into the air. They settle into the coats of dogs or cats which, when stroked, pass it on to humans. The disease can be treated and is rarely fatal.

The eggs can also be passed to humans through unwashed fruit picked in forests or mushrooms. Once in the human body, the parasite buries itself into soft tissue, particularly the liver.

There it starts to eat into the host organ, but the process is usually not noticed for several years. About five per cent of victims die as a result of the parasite invasion. Other patients have to be treated with powerful medication.

THE tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* is an ancient enemy of mankind; evidence of it has been found in Egyptian mummies more than 4,000 years old.

But British experts believe it should be possible to control the spread of the parasite, even if a growing fox population is infected by it.

Dr Mark Fox, of the London Veterinary School, says dogs and foxes are hosts to the worm. Unlike other tapeworms, which can grow to several metres, it is a mere half-centimetre long.

Dogs, or foxes, usually become infected with the worm when they eat the remains of

dead sheep. The worm then grows in the animal's intestine, shedding up to 800 eggs a fortnight, which are excreted. Dog owners can become infected from grooming or stroking their dogs and then failing to wash their hands before eating.

In the human body the worms lodge in the liver, lungs, brain or other organs, where they form hydatid cysts. These do not produce symptoms, but can grow to a great size — as large as a football. Infection of the liver is particularly dangerous, and not easy to treat. The disease is commonest in Wales.

Figures from the Commu-

nicable Diseases Surveillance Centre in Colindale show that the number of people treated for hydatid cysts remains low, but has risen quite sharply since 1990. Last year there were 43 cases, up from 27 the year before and only 14 in 1990.

The reason for the increase is not known, but control is relatively straightforward, Dr Fox says. Even if it is impossible to prevent foxes becoming infected by eating contaminated sheep carcasses, people do not come into close contact with them. The risk that dogs could pick up the parasite can be controlled by regular use of worming tablets, he says.



Worm is an ancient enemy that plagued the pharaohs

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* is an ancient enemy of mankind; evidence of it has been found in Egyptian mummies more than 4,000 years old.

But British experts believe it should be possible to control the spread of the parasite, even if a growing fox population is infected by it.

Dr Mark Fox, of the London Veterinary School, says dogs and foxes are hosts to the worm. Unlike other tapeworms, which can grow to several metres, it is a mere half-centimetre long.

Dogs, or foxes, usually become infected with the worm when they eat the remains of

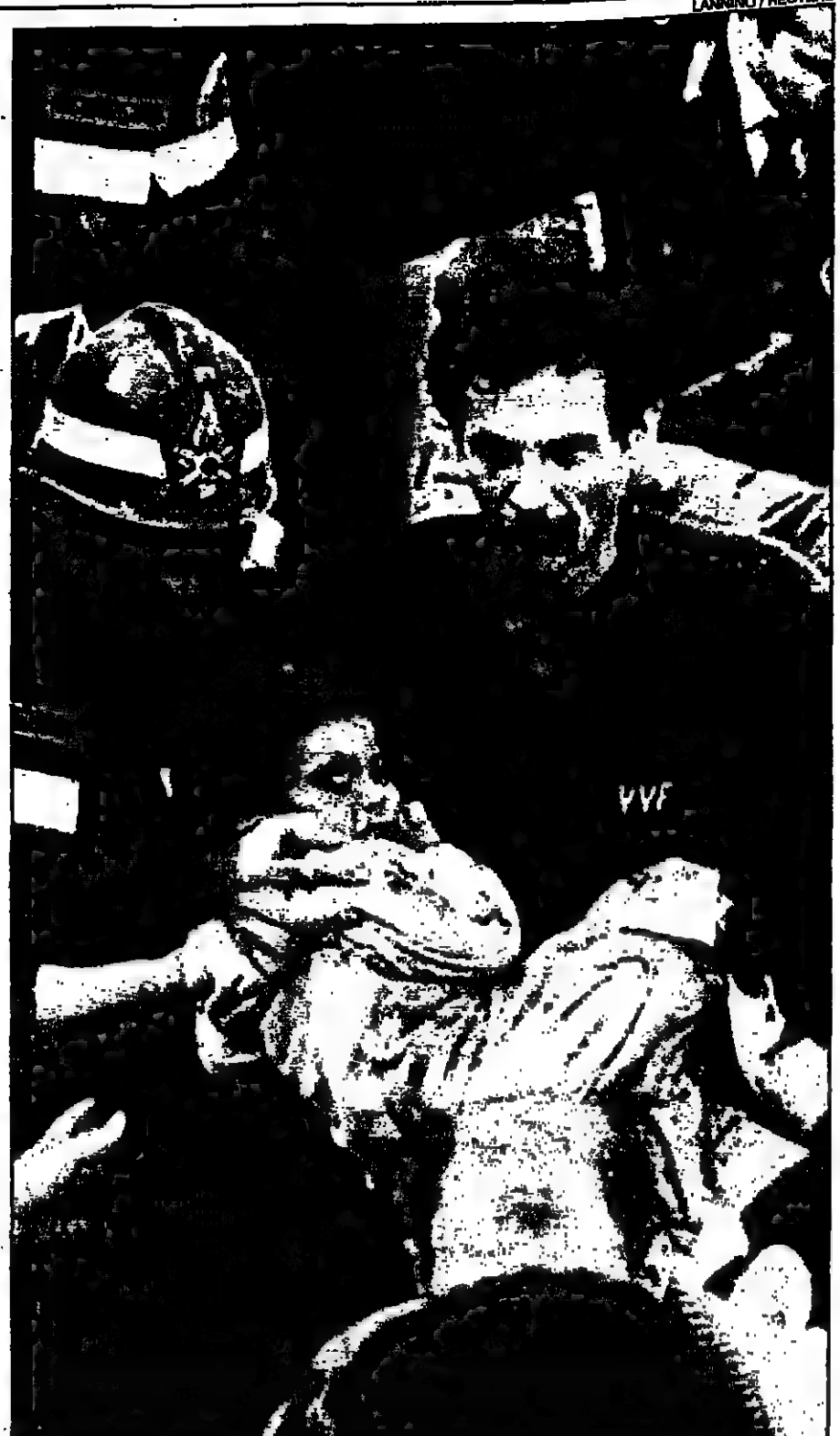
dead sheep. The worm then grows in the animal's intestine, shedding up to 800 eggs a fortnight, which are excreted. Dog owners can become infected from grooming or stroking their dogs and then failing to wash their hands before eating.

In the human body the worms lodge in the liver, lungs, brain or other organs, where they form hydatid cysts. These do not produce symptoms, but can grow to a great size — as large as a football. Infection of the liver is particularly dangerous, and not easy to treat. The disease is commonest in Wales.

Figures from the Commu-

nicable Diseases Surveillance Centre in Colindale show that the number of people treated for hydatid cysts remains low, but has risen quite sharply since 1990. Last year there were 43 cases, up from 27 the year before and only 14 in 1990.

The reason for the increase is not known, but control is relatively straightforward, Dr Fox says. Even if it is impossible to prevent foxes becoming infected by eating contaminated sheep carcasses, people do not come into close contact with them. The risk that dogs could pick up the parasite can be controlled by regular use of worming tablets, he says.



Firemen rescue a child from the rubble of the four-storey building in Palermo

Children hurt as home collapses

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO children were injured yesterday when a four-storey building collapsed in central Palermo, firemen said. Heavy rainfall in Sicily over the weekend has been blamed for the accident, but there were also reports of a gas explosion.

Last night rescue workers and volunteers were still looking for possible victims in the rubble, although no one was said to be

missing, sources said. It had been reported that ten people were trapped but few were inside the rundown building, part of the city's historic centre, when it collapsed. Most of the occupants, who were believed to be five families of immigrant workers, were out at work.

Many of the buildings in the centre of the Sicilian capital are in disrepair, and some are still suffering from damage caused by Allied bombings during the Second World War.

Students strike over Kohl's planned cuts

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN undergraduates took to the streets and brought universities to a virtual standstill yesterday in a nationwide protest against government plans to end the tradition of the "eternal student".

More than 20 universities are striking against a threat to impose tuition fees, cut interest-free student loans and, above all, reduce the number of years spent studying. The eternal German student is a staple figure of operettas and turn-of-the-century fiction, evoking images of a 30-year-old killing time with flacons of beer while waiting to inherit a sprawling estate. While this is certainly an out-of-date picture, German students spend on average seven years at university; by the time male students have served their stint in the Army, they are often close to 30 before starting their careers.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, has complained that Germany has the oldest students in the world and the youngest pensioners. He wants to abolish the system, create a bigger pool of working taxpayers and, above all,

save money to keep down the budget deficit to the 3 per cent required for entry to European economic and monetary union (EMU).

Thousands of students formed a human chain from the Chancellor's office to the Education Ministry. About 30,000 students are due to converge on Bonn tomorrow. Student strikes, with some support from teaching staff, have affected 20 universities and colleges including Frankfurt, Koblenz, Marburg, Kassel and Munich. More are joining in by the day.

In Bonn yesterday lecture halls were occupied by strike committees, a rock band played protest songs in the cafeteria and squads of students spread around the city washing car windcreens to illustrate how they will have to support themselves.

Under the planned reforms the life of the German student will change dramatically. After one year of study there will be a compulsory consultation with the head of department, who will advise whether the student has any realistic chance of succeeding or com-

pleting his course. After two years there will be preliminary exams. If the student fails on the second retake, he or she will be obliged to drop out.

Some faculties will be required to limit the number of students and all students will be more closely monitored. At the same time government loans — which in any case benefit only a small fraction of Germany's 1.6 million students — may be scaled back.

Students complain that 60 per cent already have to support themselves with part-time jobs. Research by the Hanover-based Higher Education Information Centre shows that the majority of students now work three days a week (typically as taxi drivers or waitresses) and can spend only two days studying. The financial cuts will mean that this trend increases.

Parliamentary motion: Germany's parliament yesterday backed a plan to move from Bonn to Berlin over the summer of 1999, around the same time as the Government. Parliament's first sitting after the 1999 break will be in the rebuilt Reichstag. (Reuters)

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE



Kohl tries to squeeze into an EMU-size shoe in this Pancho cartoon in *Le Monde*

Italy says sorry for invading Ethiopia

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY yesterday apologised for its invasion and occupation of Ethiopia under Mussolini and promised to return a looted obelisk which stands in the centre of Rome.

President Scalfaro, making the first visit by an Italian head of state to Addis Ababa since the Second World War, said Italy had to "purify the past by making amends for its colonialist adventures". After visiting the Italian war cemetery and a memorial to Ethiopian "victims of colonialism", he told President Gidada and Meles Zenawi, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, that Italy would restore the 200-tonne Axum obelisk, taken from the holy city of Axum on Mussolini's orders in 1937, to its "rightful owners". The obelisk, broken into three pieces for transportation, was re-erected outside the Fascist-era Ministry for Colonial Affairs, now the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, near the Circus Maximus.

But Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of the dictator and an MP for the far-right Alleanza Nazionale, said Italy had nothing to be ashamed of, and was itself the victim of plunder. "We should campaign instead for the restitution of ... works of art looted over the centuries by invading armies from Germany, France and Austria," she said.

The veteran commentator Indro Montanelli, who served with the Italian forces, said the occupation had been "relatively humane and benign". He had no objection to the return of the obelisk, which had "never had much importance for Italy anyway". Italy agreed in February to give it back but its return has been held up by technical wrangles over how to transport it to Axum.

Fascist Italy invaded Ethiopia — then called Abyssinia — in 1935 as part of Mussolini's drive to create an empire and make Italy "great, respected and feared".

Cracking ideas for Christmas

Alba CTV 3407
14" Remote Control Colour TV
£85 (RRP £119.99)
Limited availability. For use in UK only.

Alba CD Stereo Radio Cassette CX623
£45 (RRP £59.99)

FREE Body Lotion & 15ml Purse Spray with Eternity 100ml EDP
£40.85

FREE 12 x 44cl pack John Smiths Bitter with every 4 cases of Fosters, Fosters Ice or Newcastle Brown purchased in one transaction

Buy 2 get 3rd bottle FREE*
*Offer applies only to those items shown. Third bottle must be of equal or lesser value than the lowest item purchased.

You've got Christmas cracked with Hoverspeed and a day trip to France into the bargain. Thousands of inspired gift ideas... in jewellery, confectionery, fragrances, spirits, beers, electrics and more. Duty or tax-free, with up to 65% savings on high street prices.

Travel in speed and style Dover - Calais or Folkestone - Boulogne on one of our 3 stunning craft, with airline style service all the way.

Call today. And cracking Christmas shopping is in the bag.

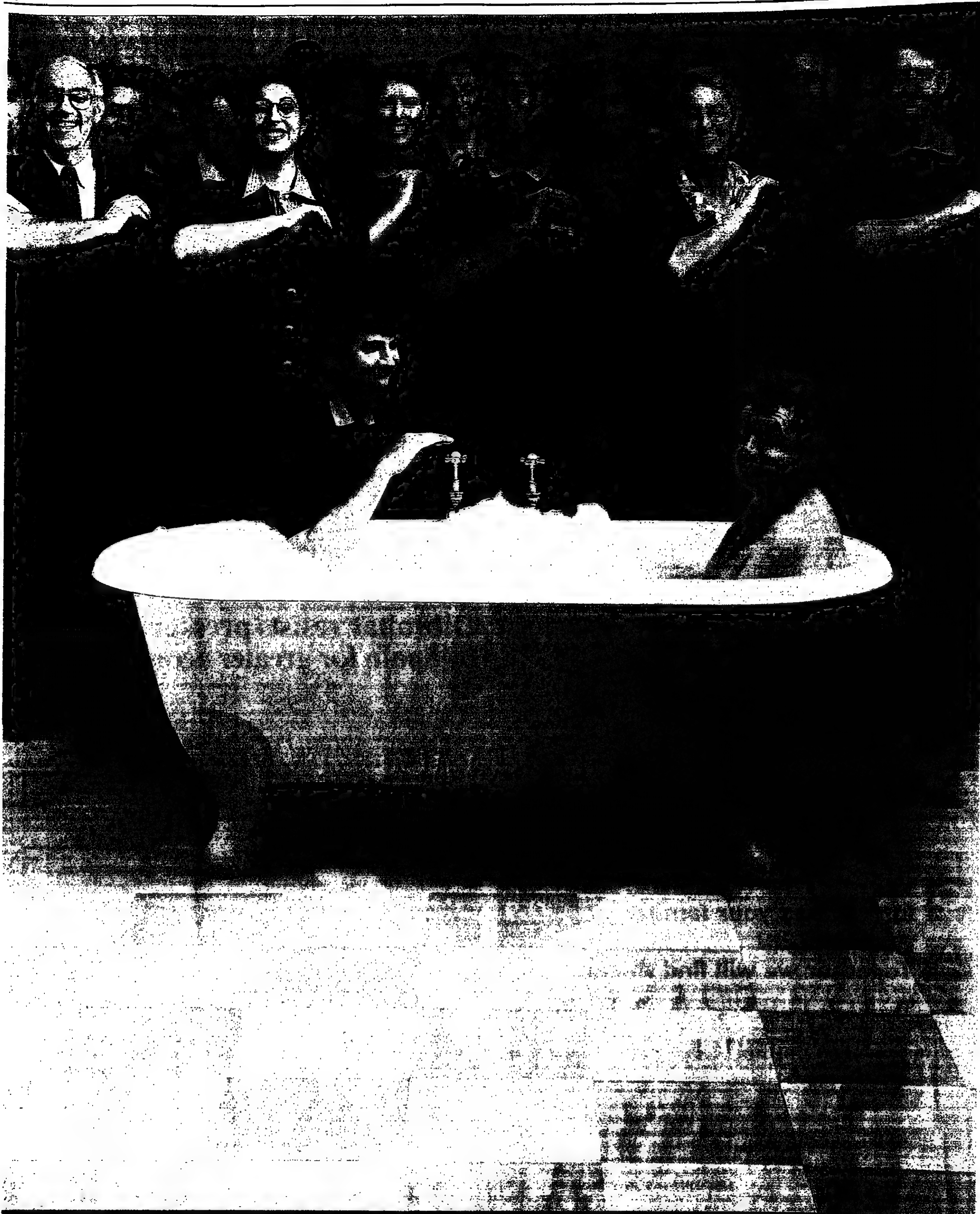
HOVER SPEED
FAST FERRIES

RESERVATIONS
0990 240 241
or contact your local travel agent

From £19 Return car + 2
SeaCat: Folkestone - Boulogne.
£10 vehicle supplement on Saturdays and bookings made on day of travel.
<http://www.hoverspeed.co.uk>

All offers are subject to availability and are not available on board any of Hoverspeed's craft. Offers close 24th December 1997. *RRP = Manufacturer's Recommended Price. RRP = Recommended Retail Price.

BARCLAYS BANK PLC TRADING AS MERCHANTILE CREDIT REGISTERED OFFICE 120 CANNON STREET, LONDON EC3A 3AH, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND REG NO 1026167. BARCLAYS BANK PLC IS A MEMBER OF THE BANKING OVERSIGHT SCHEME. LOANS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO FREEDOM UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE SUBJECT TO STATUS PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME CILLS MAY BE RECORDED OR MONITORED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. MERCHANTILE CREDIT FREEPOST, PO BOX 331, LIVERPOOL L69 8JZ. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THIS ADDRESS.



ations in desert
ight to be those
nochet victims

RETU
to sen

WE'VE 20,000 PEOPLE TO MAKE SURE YOUR BATH
WATER IS EXACTLY THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE.

When it comes to providing the personal touch, British Gas have got the whole country covered. We've 20,000 employees all dedicated to making sure you enjoy a constant supply of gas. Which, in turn, means a constant supply of hot baths, hot meals and warm rooms. Our highly-trained staff are ready to take your calls, answer your queries and, for those on the Three Star Service Contract, respond to your needs within 24 hours. You'll also find an Energy Centre on most major High Streets. So, if you want to pick up anything from a new washing machine to a well-informed piece of advice, we'll be here. And there. Everywhere.

British Gas
Home

'Pagans have had 2,000 years of bad press'

Jason Cowley on the revival of witches, wizards and magic

When a man stops believing in God, to paraphrase Chesterton, he doesn't then believe in nothing, he believes in everything. As we approach the end of the century, traditionally a time of convulsion and rising superstition, there is certainly a feeling among more and more people that they are lost without belief; that science does not have all the answers. But where to turn?

In this country, where traditional Christianity appears increasingly incapable of filling the God-shaped hole in our lives, the fastest growing religion, if indeed it is one, is neo-paganism: a belief system rooted in the myths, cosmic connections and earth mysteries of prehistory. There was a flowering of interest in pagan rituals in Britain and France in the 1990s, but, unlike today, it did not command popular attention.

There are, says the Inter-Faith Network at Derby University, more than 100,000 practising pagans in Britain. Many hundreds of thousands more, especially among the rebellious young (Leeds University has had its own pagan chaplain since 1994), borrow the symbols of paganism without adhering strictly to one of its four principal traditions: witchcraft (or wicca), druidry, shamanism and Odinism, which draws on Norse, Viking and Anglo-Saxon myths.

The appeal of paganism lies broadly in its intense exoticism and creative adaptability. It is enormously eclectic and can absorb anything: eco-friendliness, anti-road protests, personal growth, radical feminism, alternative healing, magic.

Most pagans devise their own rituals, expressions of homespun spirituality. Their year begins with Hallowe'en (Samhain), and moves through eight distinct phases



Witches Steve Paine and Kate West with their baby son, Taliesin. The couple met through witchcraft, dress in robes and gather in dark forests to worship and chant

following the cycles of the seasons and the moon.

As Ronald Hutton, Professor of History at Bristol University, explains: "Most pagans work with the notion of gods and goddesses. Some believe in them literally as independent beings; others regard them merely as symbols of natural forces or of certain human qualities. Paganism is essentially a Post-Modern religion but one, paradoxically, that is older than all the other faiths in Europe."

"Unlike the great monotheistic religions, which prescribe how you should feel about the divine, paganism says you should simply feel the divine — now work out exactly what that means for yourself."

In this model, personal experience is everything; we can

create our own religious experience. This has radical consequences: pagans have no sacred text of revelation or scripture, no fixed belief in a single divine being or in any concept of judgment and salvation.

"There is no ultimate book of right and wrong in paganism," says Dave Smith, a musician and practising druid. "It is common sense and family values, believe it or not."

The maxim of all pagans is, "Do what you will if it harms none". Adherence to this, along with acceptance of the British Pagan Federation's three tests of belief, is common to all wings of the faith. "The three maxims," says Professor Hutton, "are that you should believe that the divine is

female as well as male — which means that you accept priests and priestesses; that nature has inherent divinity in it; and that there is no set of laws given by the divine to human beings — the ethics adopted by pagans are grounded in humanity."

This benign pantheism and nature-worship is strikingly different from the stereotype of pagans as demonic night creatures, indulging in orgies of black magic and satanism. The last witch was burnt in Britain in 1728, but anyone introducing themselves as a witch in polite society is still likely to be mocked and traduced.

Still, Steve Paine and Kate West, who live with their baby son, Taliesin, in Runcorn, Cheshire, are proud to call themselves witches. They met through their local coven, and, unselfconsciously dress in robes, gathering in dark forests to worship and chant. "Witchcraft is a religion that predates Christianity but has been reinvented for modern usage," says Kate, 40, who together with 35-year-old Steve can be seen in a documentary this Sunday attempting to use magic and ritual to divine the sex of their unborn child (they were wrong).

Kate was drawn to paganism after becoming disenchanted with orthodox religion and the hegemony of science. "I wanted to create my own belief system. The orthodox church doesn't leave any scope for the human imagination. So I established my own ground rules and searched for a religion that matched them: witchcraft."

She has met some hostility — abusive letters, excrement smeared on the letterbox of the "esoteric" shop she used to run in Cheshire — but remains surprised by most people's tolerance. As for satanism and black magic, she says: "Magic is neither black nor white: it's how it's used that matters. It was in the Christians' interests to demonise pagans. The Christian Church is not just a religion, it's also a socio-economic force that took over our sites of worship and changed our festivals. The belief in a devil, in an anti-God is not pagan but Christian; we don't believe in the devil. In truth, we have had 2,000 years of bad press."

The remark about the devil is interesting, as Professor Hutton puts it: "Paganism and witchcraft have been the 'significant others' to Christianity; because Christianity is a faith that surpassed and engulfed the old religions, any ritual and magic conducted outside the church was seen as a threat to it."

As we approach the end of the second Christian millennium, we are witnessing clear signs of fin de siècle restlessness



Pagans are free to develop individual rituals and beliefs

through resurgent interest in mythology and paganism, and the popularity of astrology, alternative medicine, New Age literature and programmes like the X-Files.

In the hysteria of mourning that followed the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and during the Louise Woodward trial, this radical uncertainty was made almost tangible — a

powerful feeling that we are at the end of something. "I think this is to be welcomed," says Mr Paine. "People are changing their viewpoints. They are more self-questioning and are turning away from the commercial, sterilised world of the traditional Church."

So are we about to enter a new age of unreason? An age defined by magical explanations

of the world and a reaction against the hard rationality of science, against what the veteran theologian Don Cupitt calls "dreams of a final theory of everything"? Professor Hutton predicts that paganism will be one of the most important and culturally most pervasive of "a constellation of faiths available to cater for different spiritual needs, in a society in which religion is increasingly destabilised and privatised."

John Haldane, Professor of Philosophy at St Andrews University, is more circumspect. He agrees that superstition tends to thrive in periods of anxiety, but adds that the drift towards paganism and other "esoteric" or "substitute" religions is not altogether encouraging. For it reminds us that the human soul is incomplete without a spiritual dimension.

"We become less discriminating in our belief as our faith in the traditional liturgies of the orthodox church declines," he says. "But we never stop wanting to satisfy our hunger for belief. The lesson for the established church in what is happening is that it should get its act together and start addressing our deepest spiritual urges."

Pagan's Progress, BBC1, 10.30pm, November 30.

NEWS FROM THE INTERNET

"The Internet. Is there a way to cut through the jungle?"

Clearing a path through the dense jungle of the Internet, the UK information and entertainment service, LineOne gives you fast access to the Internet, and the home page of the subject you're interested in. Whether you're looking for a new job, a holiday, or a new partner, LineOne is the place to go.

LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210

Money, Sport, Education, What's New, Travel, Life, FUN



New printer range from Oki

Our research shows that you demand three key features when choosing a printer:

- **PRINT QUALITY** high quality, crisp 600 dpi print outs
- **SPEED** choice of fast outputs — from 4 to 6 pages per minute
- **VALUE FOR MONEY** a sky-high specification — at a down-to-earth price

We've put all this and more into the new OKIPAGE range.

CALL US 24 HOURS ON 0845 414400/WWW.OKI.CO.UK
Calls charged at local rates. Accessphone outside office hours.

OKI
People to People Technology

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

SAVE 20% THIS CHRISTMAS

habitat

nisses
irls as
pany

The mistress bond

It pays for jilted wives and mistresses to gang up on errant husbands, says Maureen Freely

Where is it written that wives and mistresses must be enemies for life? They have so much in common, and as my friend Ellen is forever pointing out, they can only gain by learning to co-operate.

She attributes her happy marriage to the fact that her husband has more than a dozen mistresses. He's a "dear", but a very exhausting one because things in the house have to be "just so". If she so much as picks up a newspaper, he goes into a sulk. But when she decides that she had enough, all she has to do is to pick up the phone and ring Sarah-Jane in Paris or Gabrielle in San Francisco and ask them if they wouldn't mind taking him off her hands for a few weeks. "I think of them as child-minders," she says. "I don't know what I'd do without them."

It's unlikely that relations between Earl Spencer's wife, Victoria, and his former mistress, Chantal Collopy, have ever been this cosy. At the outset, they must have been outright enemies. And for good reason. When the Earl decided to move his family to South Africa early last year, his affair with Chantal had been going on for seven months. It must have been terribly painful for Victoria to start a new life in a new country if she knew about it.



Female solidarity: Earl Spencer's former lover Chantal Collopy, left, and his wife, Victoria, after their court appearance

She had had plenty of practice, though. The Earl has never been good at keeping his love life private. It wasn't just the tabloids. It was alleged in court that he liked to brag. When Victoria returned home after five months at a clinic receiving treatment for drink problems and anorexia, he told her that in her absence he had slept with ten or 12 women. He used the same brutal tactics when he called her into his bathroom at Althorp to ask for a divorce. According to Victoria's lawyer, he told her that he didn't love her any more and that she was

no good as a wife. It seems that he didn't think highly of himself as a husband, either. In a letter to Chantal, he admitted that he had been vicious and callous to Victoria and was something of a bully. Chantal got a taste of the same medicine. She left her clothing tycoon husband for Earl Spencer, and then he dropped her, too. That, in any event, is the story that Victoria's lawyer told a Cape Town courtroom on Monday. Both Victoria and

Chantal were in attendance. The wife wore a cream suit, the former mistress was in black. Leaving court together, they made a pretty picture of female solidarity. But how much was for the cameras? How much was real?

Judging from my own experience of love triangles, I'd say 100 per cent. There is nothing like a common enemy for forging an alliance. The worst part about sharing a man with another woman is that if you

want to find out more about her, you usually have to ask the lout himself — an unreliable narrator if ever there was one. But if he ends up treating both of you badly and you happen to find yourself at, say, the same party...

"You mean — he played the bed trick on you, too?" I once had the pleasure of hearing one woman say to another at a party where I met three of an ex-lover's exes. He was there, too, and not his usual boisterous self. When he heard the words "bed" and "trick" together, he shrank into his jacket as if he wished it were a tortoise shell. But he got off lightly. The Earl is going to need something more along the lines of a tank.

It's not just revenge that these women are after. If that was all they wanted, they would have gone about it in the old-fashioned way — by putting on a dignified mask in public and then twisting the knife behind the scenes. This has always been the wisest course if you are convinced that it's a man's world — you play by the rules because if you don't, men might not feel obliged to be nice to you. If you've been around for a while, you'll know that it still is a man's world. What's different now is that young women go into marriage and motherhood assuming that it isn't.

What a shock it must have been for Victoria and Chantal to find out the hard way how easy it is for someone, especially someone with a title, to do whatever the hell he wants and not take the consequences! But their response shows that they still retain some of their premarital girl power.

For Victoria, the pending divorce case is first and foremost a business matter. Earl Spencer is worth an estimated £6 million, with family assets of £100 million. The settlement he offered her was £300,000. Naturally, she wants more. Judging by what other women in her position have been saying lately, it won't be pure avarice that is driving her. Like Chantal, she will have decided that wives and mothers like her are worth more.

Working with Chantal instead of against her, she is likely to get more, too. Which is good, because they both have bills to pay — after all, they're single mothers now with six children to support between them. But I also see a harder glint in their eyes. I think they are making a stand against entrenched male privilege. This may seem strange when you think of how many privileges they already have, and the sort of privileges they are fighting for, but strange or not, it is also significant.

In the final chapter of *The Female Eunuch*, Germaine Greer made a strong case for sisters not being sisters unless they threw away their high heels and high fashion and said no to marriage and domesticity. But in the age of Diana, Princess of Wales, it is discarded wives and single mothers who are suddenly the most militant. Except that they don't want less marriage and domesticity. They want better, more lasting vows, more time at home and more financial security. Like the countesses and high-society mistresses who have set themselves up as the new Germaines, they know how to count. Matron power. Who would ever have predicted it?

Realities of divorce + Fussy eaters + Boarding schools

Low on happy endings

As we read reports of the acrimony that, despite the best intentions, overtook the break-up of Paula Yates and Bob Geldof's marriage, and as the story unfolds of Earl Spencer's broken marital record, it is hard to deny the viciousness, bitterness and hissing enmity that is the particular unsalubrious territory of divorce.

Who would want to deny it, you might ask. Even if we weren't fed a diet of recrimination and revelation in the (not only) tabloid press, most of us have been, at some time or other, bombarded with the sob stories of our friends. We all know that there is no such thing as the amicable break-up of a marriage. Or if there is, it is of the most specious sort, and always at one of the partner's emotional expense.

But there is someone who wants to deny this: indeed, has something of a vested interest in doing so, and that is Fergie. Her complaints last week at not being fully included in the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's anniversary celebrations were aired as if she truly believed

that she had a right to be at their very jubilant centre. But when you get divorced you lose any right to be included as a member of your former spouse's family. That's what divorce means. And to be honest, for most people that's one of the advantages. After all, if you want to liberate yourself from an unloved husband, why remain shackled to his family? When married, one takes on duties and obliga-

expect to be invited to his parents' golden wedding anniversary, not even if relations were warm: of all occasions, anyway, it would be stunningly inappropriate. Divorce indicates rupture, and there's no way around it. You could, I suppose, see it as a good sign if we fail to acknowledge the full implications of divorce: one might deduce that we have so much faith in the eternal unity of the wedding bonds that we really do believe that no man can tear them asunder. And there must be something in that.

But, perhaps, too, we have allowed ourselves — or some of us have — to fall too easily for the modern palliative sophistries: namely, that it is possible to divorce and remain "the bestest of friends"; that to break up a family is not necessarily a painful thing to do; and that although it might mean revising the sleeping arrangements, deep down it changes nothing.

It changes everything — as the Duchess of York, as she still insists on styling herself, seems only just beginning to find out. If I divorced my husband — and there are definitely no plans — I certainly wouldn't

we have allowed ourselves — or some of us have — to fall too easily for the modern palliative sophistries: namely, that it is possible to divorce and remain "the bestest of friends"; that to break up a family is not necessarily a painful thing to do; and that although it might mean revising the sleeping arrangements, deep down it changes nothing.

It changes everything — as the Duchess of York, as she still insists on styling herself, seems only just beginning to find out. If I divorced my husband — and there are definitely no plans — I certainly wouldn't

Nigella Lawson



Boarding school is abuse, not education

THIS WEEK should have seen the launch of a campaign forged by a radical new body: its aim, to impress upon all of us just how wrong we are about boarding schools. They are not cold, brutish places where the children are flogged and boys sodomised. They are not archaic institutions. They are not repositories for unloved children. Got it?

Unfortunately, a couple of raids on just such schools, which disclosed potential evidence of child pornography, have rather put a damper on these plans.

Not, of course, that all boarding schools are dens of paedophilia and kiddie-porn. Although I should say that I have never met a man who went to boarding school who hasn't had some experience of being sexually exploited in some form or another by a member of staff, even if it was being thrashed for the master's gratification rather than being actually seduced.

A lot of these people seem unharmed by the experience, and do themselves claim to be: they have scant regard for modern sensitivity towards child abuse, which may itself not

exactly be a healthy sign. I do see there is a contemporary argument for boarding school. If both parents are working all hours and don't have time to pay enough attention to their children, I dare say these children might benefit. And I admit there is a difference in sending a child to boarding school at seven — when it can never not be a cruelty — and at 13, when children may genuinely express a preference.

But sending children away is a strange thing to do. Why would anyone want to do it? Not only do the children feel rejected — indeed, are rejected — but they tend to feel more at home at school than with their parents. This is what people prize as "self-sufficiency". But is it worth turning your children into relative and polite strangers for them to acquire it? In this, I'm a modern: I believe that giving children love and confidence is the way for them to become truly self-sufficient. If you can do that and send them to boarding school, fine. Otherwise, it's just about learning to be tough, to be invulnerable, in short, about being a survivor.

My child, the omnivore

rather than tell them what they're going to eat.

I cannot believe that that makes them grow up picky. Evidence shows most of all that the children of fussy eaters become fussy eaters. I don't believe that I was bullied into being someone who could eat everything because I was left sitting at a plate of something cold.

congealed and hateful that I had to eat. I think it's because I come from a family of eaters who find it hard not to eat everything.

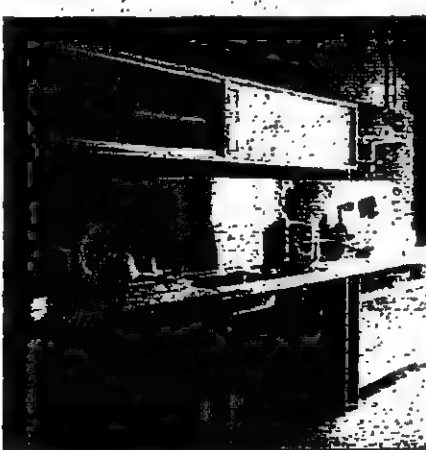
I do think you've got to start off by giving a child everything possible to eat, and I think some firmness is necessary, as indeed it always is with children, but I suspect post-school faddiness is inevitable, but not irrevocable. With the right foundations, and not too much fuss, a child will revert to omnivorous type.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

SAVE 20% AT HABITAT THIS CHRISTMAS

Habitat



Kit out an entire kitchen using our 20% discount



Blind plates, £1.95 each; place mats, £3.75 each



Sky docks, £15 each



Choose from dozens of ideas for Christmas presents

This week *The Times* gives you the opportunity to save 20% on your shopping bill at Habitat. The offer is available until December 21 at all 40 Habitat stores in the UK and Republic of Ireland. A Habitat shopping card (illustrated left) was inserted FREE with Monday's newspaper. To qualify for your discount simply attach, to the card, three differently numbered tokens (token three is below) from the six published in *The Times* this week, plus the token which will appear in *The Sunday Times* on November 30. Your completed shopping card entitles you to buy as many items as you wish on a single shopping trip and to receive a 20% discount on your total bill. Normal TNL rules apply. For details of your nearest Habitat store call 0645 33 44 33.

● If you did not receive your FREE shopping card with yesterday's newspaper, please call: 0171-481 3377 (24 hours)



CHANGING TIMES

PERFECT FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO KEEP SOMETHING SPECIAL UP THEIR SLEEVE.

UNIQUE GOLD CUFFLINKS FROM GARRARD. PART OF AN EXCLUSIVELY DESIGNED 18CT GOLD COLLECTION FROM £95 TO £7,800. GARRARD ALSO OFFERS THE COMPLEMENTARY ENGRAVING OF TWO INITIALS ON SUITABLE PAIRS OF GOLD CUFFLINKS UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

GARRARD

10 REGENT STREET, LONDON, W1A 2EU TEL: 0171 754 7000

CALL FOR CATALOGUE, DETAILS OF INTEREST FREE FINANCING AND EXTENDED CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS.

1800 376166

Getting the NHS off its sickbed

Alan Milburn outlines Labour's prescription for an ailing service

The National Health Service is nearing its 50th birthday. At its best, it is still the envy of the world. But, creaking under a Tory legacy of record waiting lists and financial deficit, it is in urgent need of modernisation.

It is argued that the only way the NHS can survive is through huge increases in taxation, charges for services or rationing of care. These, however, are not acceptable options. What patients want is a modern, dependable NHS. The Government is committed to providing it.

Pressures on the NHS are often exaggerated. An ageing population, it is believed, will prove an unprecedented burden. Over the past ten years the number of people who lived to the age of 85 and over has increased by some 300,000. But in the coming decade this number will only grow by a further 100,000. This means that the NHS will have to cater for an increase only one third of the size of that which it has already dealt with.

Our health service is a strong and resilient organisation. It has risen to daunting challenges over the past ten years: Aids, more operations for coronary artery bypass grafts, expensive new drugs for stomach ulcers. Of course, many new problems lie ahead but not all of these will increase our health-care bill. As technology advances, allowing less invasive and hence cheaper treatments, costs in certain areas will be reduced. Heart catheters could increasingly replace bypass grafts, for example, or more day surgery could reduce expensive in-patient care. Taking a longer-term view, the Government's new emphasis on improving public health and tackling inequalities will also help.

The proportion of GDP spent on the health service has changed little over the past 20 years, fluctuating between 5 and 6 per cent. But the NHS needs more money. With new Labour it will get it. We are committed to raising spending in real terms every year. Since May 1 an extra £1,500 million has been invested: taxes have not had to be raised to unaffordable levels to do this, and nor will they be.

But the NHS needs to spend its money more effectively. We have begun to do this by dismantling the Tories' internal market, which institutionalised unfairness and wasted effort and resources. Fragmented decision-making lost any financial advantages that collaboration can bring. The Government's ambition is to renew the NHS as a genuinely national service both on grounds of fairness and efficiency. The two go hand in hand. The steps we have already taken to reduce expensive bureaucracy within the service have already freed £100 million from red tape for investment in frontline patient care. Our forthcoming White Paper will complete the job.

But stripping out unnecessary bureaucracy will only

partially achieve greater efficiency. This Government would like to go further, by getting doctors and nurses to work with their local health authorities on controlling resources and ensuring that NHS money is spent on effective and cost-efficient treatments. A more rigorous approach is needed to both new and existing treatments. The Government will introduce fresh ways of raising standards and spreading best practice, both of which have been hampered by an internal market which encouraged secrecy and wide regional variations. Day-case surgery rates, for instance, vary from 50 per cent to 70 per cent across the country despite the success of such surgery in improving care and holding down costs. The prescription by GPs of generic drugs, which are identical to more expensive branded ones, varies by 50 per cent between health authorities — let alone between individual practices.

It is not just that precious NHS resources are being wasted on expensive or inappropriate treatments. Patients are the real losers because when standards of treatment vary it is they who are put at risk. The recent failures of breast cancer screening at Exeter and cervical cancer screening in Kent demonstrated this. A recent report on breast cancer treatment showed that our relative position compared with some other countries, and the degree of variation, is both striking and shocking.

To sustain the NHS while making it both modern and dependable we need clearer statements of how services should be delivered, more rigorous assessment of clinical and cost-effective treatments and better ways of ensuring best practice locally. We also need a better, more consistent way of identifying whether the health service is delivering what the public rightly expects. A White Paper, to be published next week, will set out the practical measures which will achieve these objectives.

Ultimately, the key to sustaining the NHS is simply political. People in developed countries rightly demand good health care. That demand can be met in a number of ways. Other countries may do it differently, but often more expensively, less fairly and with no appreciable improvement. The health of our economy depends on the health of the NHS and not just by ensuring a healthy workforce. The cost-effectiveness of the NHS reduces the United Kingdom's tax burden to well below the European Union average, encouraging investment, and strengthening incentives to work and save. It also reduces the inflationary wage pressures seen in employer-based health systems such as Germany. A strong NHS means a competitive Britain.

The author is Minister for Health.



FINANCE CHIEF VERY SORRY, BUT FOR NOW THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE HE CAN DO...

Falling into a tiger trap

This so-called crisis has exposed the madness of Asia's corrupt markets

My friend turned grimaced from the phone. "Yamaichi has gone," he said. "Not Yamaichi? I cried. 'Not the fourth largest stockbroker in Tokyo?' He nodded. 'That must put 7,000 people out of work in a fine country where unemployment is almost unknown and bankruptcy unthinkable.' 'Yes,' he said, 'this is a deepening crisis, a precipice, a meltdown.' The dominoes were falling. The tigers were meowing. A peril of unmentionable colour was seeping round the globe. I was duly appalled.

But not much. I doubt if one person in a million has the foggiest idea why the fall of the fourth largest stockbroker in Tokyo should upset Britain's economic equilibrium, let alone lead the *Nine O'Clock News*. We read that certain Japanese banks over-lent to gangsters to buy office blocks. We are inclined to say, serve them right. We see managers in tears on television, and ponder the thousands of Britons who lost their jobs in the 1980s. They did so without references from the world media to dominoes, precipices and hara-kiri.

True, when banks fail everyone shudders. As Prince's bullet opened the First World War, so the failure of the Kreditanstalt opened the Great Crash. Banks are curiously personal institutions. They handle our money. But bank failure is like crime. The press may draw tendentious conclusions by accumulating items of bad news. We can choose to panic or not. The panic. We may see Armageddon lurking within the fourth largest stockbroker in Tokyo, or we may not.

Given the past month's hysteria about the "tiger economies" of the Pacific Rim, I am surprised there are not queues at every Cashpoint in Britain. The tabloidisation of financial information is now complete. On television, breathless commentators scream the clichés of crisis. "Nothing will ever be the same again." First it was Thailand, then Malaysia, then Indonesia, then the Philippines, then Korea, then Hong Kong and "now" Japan. What beautiful symmetry does geography offer at the altar of metaphor. The bubble has burst. "And with globalisation, who can tell what impact this may have on the economies of Western Europe?" Who indeed?

Financial panic is usually a function of financial illiteracy. Economics should now be compulsory in school. If the guru Michael Porter is correct

and global commerce is the armed conflict of our age, then commerce should be as vital a part of the curriculum as military service once was. Young people should recognise a price mechanism, economic growth, currency fluctuation and Third World debt. Disual economics may lack the glamour of war. But if the fourth-largest broker in Tokyo can shatter our peace of mind, we had better know what is going on.

The answer is largely myth. For the past five years I have been unable to open a newspaper without seeing a league table of the startling peror of the tigers. They have been the most competitive nations, the fastest growing, the best for investment and somehow even the richest. Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore jostle for primacy, watched over by the mother and father of all tigers, Japan and China. Think-tanks compete for Far East contracts by showing Britain and the rest of Europe ever lower in their estimation. Each year the *Economist* publishes a book of such tables. The *Pocket World in Figures*. It is mostly rubbish. One table contrives to get Mauritius, Botswana and Bhutan "ahead" of Britain for growth.

International league tables of growth, like those of output per head, are most mendacious of all. They measure what is measurable — or what a bureaucrat has made up — not what is meaningful. Many "high-performing nations" are city states, politically distinct from possibly burdensome hinterlands, such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Luxembourg. On this rating, I imagine the City of London, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight would be global tigers. At least the *Economist* has Britain ahead of New Zealand in "human development", as well as Barbados ahead of Italy and Belarus ahead of Singapore. This must be as crass as statistics can get.

We are next told to remember last year's buzzword, globalisation. Not only are the tigers dynamic, but when

they sneeze the whole world catches cold. Yet the world was always global. It was global to the Merchant of Venice and his "argosies, with portly sail". It was global to Golden Age Holland and its East Indian, and to Spain's vast empire. The British Empire was a global commercial entity. Finance was never more international than in the days of the Medici and the Hanseatic League.

Certainly information is globally instantaneous, and thus has a peculiar ability to exaggerate and alarm. Equally global is our ability to switch off. I assume that the failure of 20 Japanese banks over the past three years is a market adjustment, as was the "failure" of Barings in London. The searier side of Japanese finance may be revealed, but that does not push Japan over a precipice. The Japanese regulators will be shamed into sorting something out, as the International Monetary Fund will shame the lesser tigers. Financial crises have a habit of brevity. Big bangs and Black Wednesdays swirl into headlines and depart as swiftly. A day is a long time in yen futures.

I am with Adam Smith. The great god price will supply the hidden hand of correction when markets lose their balance. This applies even to markets distorted and corrupted by crime. We learn that many of the tiger stockmarkets are, indeed, corrupt. Protection is offered for unsafe loans to friends. Money is paid to gangsters and drug barons. Savings are poured into property speculation. Yet price will wield its rod, later if not sooner.

"Market adjustment" is treated as a cynical term for plunging stock values. It is a good term. Markets do not "collapse", any more than do national economies. Prices fall (or rise) when demand and supply are out of balance. They may fall spectacularly where prices have long been distorted by corruption, but that is a market working, not collapsing. Most readers would guess that the Hong Kong index must be at rock bottom after last month's "collapse"

stories. It is not. The Hangseng is higher than a year ago. Stock in the South Sea Company was four times higher after the "bubble" burst in 1720 than it was at flotation. Never bet the farm on a headline. Japan will survive.

Yet, a more insidious myth deserves exposure. It is one beloved of apologists for the Singaporean and other Pacific Rim regimes. This is that they have managed to subordinate politics to economics. A close-knit oligarchy, a few backhanders and not too much democracy are the best way to send the tiger leaping through the jungle. Political maturity, we are told, will follow on its heels. It need not go before.

I believe this to be wrong. Capitalism, or more strictly free trade, may have supercharged the immensely corporatist economies of the Pacific. It can do so only for a period. Capitalism requires open and efficient markets. Such markets need political and public consent. They need open politics and democratic institutions. They eventually need an educated and questioning population and a welfare state. In other words, they eventually need to be more like Europe.

The oriental capitalism of my experience has little in common with the free-enterprise culture of Western Europe and America. I find little appealing in the closed politics that have yielded such spectacular league-tables in the Far East. They may be good for the 100-yard dash, but they are plagued by cronyism, protection, fraud and a lack of restraint on property development. These are crazy markets, imperfect and brittle. Most lack the safety valve of an open democracy to regulate and adjust them.

This is none of my business. My interest is limited to protecting British markets from similar pollution. That is their own security against external shocks from the likes of Yamaichi. This security means a painstaking attention to the detail of financial regulation, conducted under the glare of democratic oversight. Capitalism is not a necessary condition for democracy, but democracy is a necessary condition for capitalism. As Smith said, capitalism is a "conversation that ends in a conspiracy against the public". The public needs to be on guard. Forget Yamaichi. Remember Lloyd's.

Simon Jenkins

Voting riddle

AS Peter Temple-Morris crossed the floor to sit with Labour yesterday, claims were reaching me that he made a rather earlier commitment to Labour: by voting for them. This was despite standing in May as a Conservative, for whom he won election as the Member for Leominster. Recently he justified his decision to sit on the Labour benches by attacking William Hague's headline opposition to the single currency. But now, it would appear, the one-nation Tory was disillusioned before Hague had even been elected leader. Temple-Morris has told friends that he voted Labour in the local elections in May 1996, a year before the general election. This raises questions about how he voted in May. The silver fox is mercurial, and enigmatic, as ever. "I would never reveal my voting record," he says. "That is a secret between myself and the ballot box."

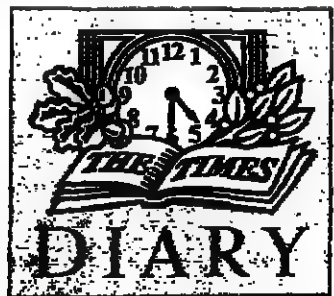
But his local situation is intriguing. He lives and votes in Hereford, the constituency which adjoins his own. Until the last election the seat was held by Sir Colin Shepherd, a Tory with rather cooler views on Brussels.

One possibility is that he voted for Labour's Chris Chappell. But the Liberal Democrats, who unseated Sir Colin with a 6,648 majority, claim that he voted for their man, Paul Keetch. According to the *Lib Dems*: "He is good friends with Paul and wanted to see Shepherd out."



Temple-Morris, Shepherd

● CONGRATULATIONS to my old friend Max Hastings, Editor of the *Evening Standard*, who will pick up an award tonight from the *Howard League for Humane Reform* of the Penal System. This is in recognition of his paper's "reflective and incisive coverage of penal issues over the past year". Odd. His newspaper was recently fined £40,000 in the High Court for contempt of court after a judge had to abort a trial. This was because the paper disclosed that



some of the six men accused had convictions for terrorism — preventing a fair hearing.

Golden couple

FINANCIAL ruin attends those bidden to the marriage of William Hague and Pion Jenkins: they have set up their wedding list at the Wedding Shop, a crimping grand agency in Chelsea. Guests will be obliged to purchase goods — selected from some of the capital's most expensive shops — over the phone without viewing them. The service includes lunch at that Knightsbridge trough, Mosimann's, where the couple can discuss their material marital desires. The consultation costs £100. Well-wishers keen to buy them his-and-hers bathrobes could be rebuffed. "Fion has had problems with

this," says the shop. "Only people invited to the wedding are allowed to buy."

Colourful past

ONE of our new MPs once worked as a hotel night manager in Amsterdam's red light district, another always uses yellow toothbrushes, while a third used to drop his trousers to prove he was male. These intriguing disclosures will appear in *New MPs of '97*, by those dedicated Commons watchers, Andrew Roth and Byron Criddle. Dr



Radi Vis, Labour MP, told the authors of his job as a young man when he was desperate for work growing up in his native Netherlands. The Independent Martin Bell said that, like his taste in suits, he favours pale colours even down to his toothbrush.

Kerry Pollard, another Labourite, admitted to an early career as an exhibitionist, in response to being teased about his unisex name. Thankfully, such behaviour is no longer necessary — he now sports a beard.

● QUENTIN TARANTINO, the Hollywood director whose *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction* made Sam Peckinpah seem wimpy, has landed himself in trouble over his liberal use of blood — from environmentalists. In the wake of his latest gore-fest, *The Hangman's Daughter*, howls are arising about irredeemable damage Tarantino is supposedly doing to historic caves in South Africa — due to fake blood splurging over the walls.

Just fur you

AN ELEVATION to the House of Lords normally heralds a mass slaughter of stoats — for the making of a robe. This horrified the new Baron Thomas of Mactodesfield, so he commissioned his own



Fake fur: Baron Thomas

custom-made number — fashioned from synthetic fibres and imported from France. Before he was ennobled he shared the name of that old cad Terry-Thomas, but his politics have always been rather straighter, having formerly been a big note at the right-on Co-operative Bank. "After leaving such an ethical company it would look rather hypocritical of me to wear a stoat around my neck." His shoes at least, I am relieved to learn, are not plastic.

JASPER GERARD

Alan Coren



Just a small thing, perhaps, Ken, but it would give you a point

I am a disappointed man. I am a disappointed man because Ken is a disappointed man, and he is a disappointed man because, while he has always been a very good chance that, this year, he would have become an appointed one. But he has not. Ken remains as disappointed as a man can be. He still has no genitalia. It will have been no end, as it were, of a disappointment.

Ken is, of course, Barbie's significant other, and his tragedy is that for the past 36 years he has been less significant than he would like. But this year, for the first time, his hopes, at least, would have been raised: this year, and a mere week ago at that, Mattel, who manufacture the tatty couple, announced that Barbie was to be remodelled, in order to become more realistic.

She would be given not only a smaller, more credible, and, very important, more politically acceptable bust, but also a more authentic hip-waist ratio, a particular benefit of which would be, and I quote, to make it easier to get her clothes on and off. Music, one would imagine, to Ken's ears; until one rang Mattel the next day and learned that Ken's ears would remain his only boneless extremities.

How can that be, I cried, this is 1997, these are two devoted young lovers, they are role-models for millions of modern life-wise kids, yet while one of them is actually being rebuilt to facilitate 'fit-removal', the other is to be left with no part in all this. But the charming PR woman merely sighed, and told me that that was how maidenhead felt — an answer by which I was quite seriously thrown, until I twigged that Maidenhead was where the Mattel executives worked.

Indeed, so thrown was I by the entire experience that after ringing off I drove down to the Brent Cross toyshop to have a close look at the pair of them; whereupon it was borne in upon me that, in terms of what is required of 1997 role-models, there was more to Ken's shortcomings than didn't meet the eye. For Ken, I concluded, was as politically incorrect as it was possible, these days, to be he was lean and muscular, he was chisel-chinned, his hair was lustrous, his skin was flawless, and the more I turned Ken this way and that, the more offended I grew, not merely in my own behalf but in my entire gender's.

How dare Mattel make only Barbie more realistic! Even if Maidenhead felt that the market was not yet prepared for an ungendered Ken, that market has the right to demand that its children be discouraged from regarding youthful handsomeness as the only criterion for desirability. Especially if it is manifestly untrue: seek the girls who look like Barbie, and where do you find them? You find them on the arms of Bernie Ecclestone and Peter Stringfellow and Bill Wyman and Paul Daniels.

Is it not time for Mattel to take account of that? If you can buy 100 accessories to make Ken more conventionally glamorous, why are not as many available to make him less conventionally so, thereby reducing the affront which the unblemished Ken represents to the nation's men? A bald patch, range, say, and stick-on plastic punctures in various sizes, knees jointed so as to offer every option from bandy to knock, a large conk, with or without excrecent bristles, flat feet, and a packet of tiny transfers offering everything from liver spots and broken blood-vessels to eczema flurries and varicose veins?

Yes, of course, there are other desiderata required to boost new Ken's desirability, and Mattel could do themselves considerable commercial good by putting these on the shelves alongside the others: a string of My Little Polo Ponies, say, a miniature suite at the Paris Ritz, two Concorde tickets to the Bahamas, a platinum credit card in Barbie's name, or, better yet, a plain brown envelope... I know what you're thinking: you're thinking: why should Mattel endow Ken with all these items while continuing to keep him bereft of the one which would enable him to take advantage of them? But I'm thinking: if only Mattel can be persuaded to pursue the course of realism on which it has just so tentatively embarked, then how far off can that joyous day be when, at last, Maidenhead yields to the feeling that things should no longer be beyond our Ken?



Alan Coren



BROWN'S WAY

To a budget of good sense and wasteful stunts

Gordon Brown's "Pre-Budget Report", delivered yesterday, was both more than and less than a traditional Autumn Statement. For the first time, it contained details of tax changes planned in the next Budget, and promised consultation between now and the spring. But, for the first time and the last, it failed to cover public spending. In the coming financial year, Labour has chosen to stick with the plans of the last Government. Next November, the Chancellor will have a greater chance either to cheer or disappoint his backbenchers with the area of government action that they care about most.

For now, they will have to make do with socio-economics rather than macro-economics. Apart from the populist spending pledge of cold weather payments for pensioners, Mr Brown devoted most of his speech to measures that he hopes will help the socially excluded to join the world of work.

If these measures succeed, they should have the added economic bonus of boosting growth without stoking up inflation. As the Chancellor pointed out, skill shortages are becoming a problem, a sure sign that wage and price rises will follow. Whether the young or long-term unemployed can be trained into the vacancies available, however, is another matter. Bricklayers are in short supply, which presents a promising opportunity. But so too are computer-programmers who can deal with the millennium bug; these are hardly likely to emerge from the dole queues.

The best economic investment Mr Brown made yesterday was to promise £300 million for an extra one million new places in out-of-school clubs. For many non-working parents — not just those who live on their own — lack of childcare is the biggest impediment to taking a job. No-one wants to raise latchkey children, but fitting work around school hours and holidays is not easy. After-school and holiday clubs that give children a chance to play, learn or do homework under adult supervision are cheap and plausible solutions. Taken with the discount that bus

and train operators will offer to New Deal participants, this shows that the Government has learnt lessons in welfare reform from America: that the unemployed will not go back to work unless their childcare and transport difficulties are addressed.

Work also has to be made to pay. Here, Mr Brown's proposed Working Families Tax Credit will help, as will action to withdraw benefits more slowly once recipients start to earn money. A 10p starting rate, though, would be a very blunt instrument. The Chancellor was jeered yesterday when he hinted at a delay in its introduction; he should have been cheered. A 10p starting rate would benefit undeserving rich and deserving poor alike, a real waste of public money which could be much better targeted at the bottom end.

The same criticism could be made of the Chancellor's pension stunt. Why should an ex-British Gas director receive the same help for his heating bill as a pensioner struggling just above the income support level? It would have been more sensible to concentrate the help on those who need it most.

The Chancellor showed a welcome entrepreneurial spirit in promising another cut in the corporation tax rate. This move will, infuse Britain's European partners, who are already trying to pressure this country to harmonise its rates with those on the Continent. Mr Brown is right to resist this pressure: the EU can succeed only if its tax rates are competitive with each other and the rest of the world. It is encouraging to see a Labour Government showing the way.

More corporatist instincts were on show, though, in Mr Brown's attitude to the creative industries. This seems not so much a policy of picking winners as of backing them. Why, if Britain is already so successful in this field, does Government need to intervene? If Messrs Brown and Blair want to be part of "Cool Britannia", there are cheaper ways of achieving that aim. Rock star parties at 10 Downing Street cost a lot less than working parties at the DTI.

PREMIER UNDER PRESSURE

Netanyahu's difficulties should not be misinterpreted

Eighteen months after his election as Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu is under extreme pressure. Members of his own party threatened yesterday to bring down his administration if it handed over additional territory in the West Bank to Yasser Arafat. President Clinton will be furious if he does not. Other Likud leaders have been in open and bitter revolt about internal party proposals that would shift power to the central committee controlled by Netanyahu supporters. Avigdor Lieberman, the director of the Prime Minister's Office until his enforced resignation on Sunday, might now face indictment on financial irregularities. This has revived accusations of corruption and impropriety that almost destroyed Mr Netanyahu earlier this year.

Altogether this offers the impression that Mr Netanyahu's days are numbered. That might yet be true but the number may be rather larger than is commonly anticipated. Coalition conflict has been the central feature of Israeli politics. In an attempt to defuse it, a new system was adopted to ensure the direct election of the Prime Minister. Mr Netanyahu is the first figure so selected. Unfortunately, the law of unintended consequences has outsmarted the reformers. Small parties — which did well at the polls last year — have become even more important in the Cabinet and Knesset.

Withdrawal from the West Bank is certainly unpopular within the ruling centre-right coalition. However, if this administration collapsed, the realistic alternatives would be a National Government or fresh elections that could install Ehud Barak, the Labour Party leader, as Prime Minister. It is difficult to see how either development would assist those who oppose further transfers of land to the Palestinian Authority. The hawks are limited in options.

There are similar complexities that mitigate against a coup from within the Likud Party. The Prime Minister is not short of enemies. Benny Begin, ex-Science Minister, Dan Meridor, ex-Finance Minister, and Ehud Olmert, the Mayor of Jerusalem, are united in the view that Mr Netanyahu is an unwelcome outsider. David Levy, the Foreign Minister, and Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister would serve at a moment's notice. There is no consensus among them about who should succeed and what policies should be pursued. There is also the problem that two-thirds of the Knesset is required to remove a sitting Prime Minister without prompting an unwelcome election.

Issues exist that could force out Mr Netanyahu prematurely. The insistence of ultra-Orthodox Jews that they alone should oversee religious conversions has proved explosive in Israel, the United States and indeed Britain. The Prime Minister favours compromise but the alienation of one section might be inevitable. The cooling economy, and its pressure on public spending, could also become contentious. The assorted religious, immigrant, and ethnic parties largely exist to maximise their share of the budget. It may be impossible to keep them all satisfied. One or other set of politicians might feel they have a cause that would increase their support in a snap election.

There is thus a danger of badly understanding Mr Netanyahu's chances of survival or utterly misinterpreting the events, if they arrive, that finally trigger his departure. There is more to Israeli public life than the Middle East peace process. This should be appreciated by outsiders. Tip O'Neill, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, once famously observed that "all politics is local". His dictum applies as much to Israel today as his native Massachusetts.

PRECIOUS HARVEST

What man has destroyed, science can help man to restore

Coral reefs are the rainforests of the seas, magical environments of multicoloured columns and delicate filigree which lie at the centre of a complex marine chain on which nearly a million species of fish and other ocean life depend. As with the rainforest, scientists are only just beginning to understand the rich medical potential of the genetic material they contain. These ecosystems are extremely fragile. They are dying at an alarming, and accelerating, rate.

This year, the first global survey revealed that a tenth of the world's reefs have deteriorated beyond the point of recovery and 30 per cent more are approaching that state. A mere hundredth of them is officially protected. Time for action is short.

Science is still a long way from identifying all of the causes of degradation — notably, why huge tracts of coral are being ravaged by bacterial and fungal infections which are mostly diseases that did not exist 20 years ago. Possible culprits are the dumping of land-based waste, sedimentation, changes in salinity and in ocean temperature. But other, more easily identifiable threats arise from human activities such as dynamite and cyanide fishing, damage from anchors and careless divers. To these problems, science has come up with a potential solution.

The United States has already taken a lead in reef conservation; it is the only country to ban coral mining in its territorial waters. American scientists are now pioneering techniques of coral propagation which could, by creating alternative sources of supply, put an end to the commercial excuses for taking coral from the wild. Using tiny coral "cuttings", marine biologists at Pittsburgh's Aqua-Zoo are growing coral in greenhouses under lightbulbs. The experiment has been so successful that already, the scientists reckon, propagation could provide 25 per cent of North America's needs. The team will shortly start marketing coral to pet stores and biomedical researchers.

This is a good example of science meeting the market to conserve the environment. The technology should be made available to developing countries. The quid pro quo should be agreement to negotiate a worldwide convention for the protection of coral reefs. In the 1980s, DuPont's discovery of a less polluting alternative to chlorofluorocarbons was critical in persuading governments to agree to the Montreal Convention on the ozone layer. In the same way, Pittsburgh Zoo could turn out to have opened the route to protecting the treasure houses of the deep.

'Half a loaf' for disabled litigants

From Mr Graeme Williams, QC

Sir, The letter from Jean Ritchie, QC (November 19), deals with one of the untoward consequences of the proposed withdrawal of legal aid in favour of conditional fees for infants and the mentally ill suing for damages. I believe there are others.

For very many years the settlement of such persons' claims has, for obvious good reasons of public policy, required the court's approval; otherwise the settlement is invalid.

How can the court approve the settlement of an infant's or mental patient's claim (which will very often include a substantial award for future care and other necessary future expenditure) if it knows that an unquantifiable part of the damages — representing the increase, in the order of 20 per cent, which the plaintiff's lawyers will be entitled to impose under conditional-fee agreements upon their normal fees — will be deducted from the award before it reaches the plaintiff?

How, similarly, can the patient's solicitors and counsel conscientiously advise that (say) £1 million is a proper award, and invite the court to approve it, if they know that, although it is a proper figure, the plaintiff will not in fact receive it in full?

The Lord Chancellor's proposals seem to be based on the principle that half a loaf for some litigants is better than no bread for others, even though the most vulnerable and deserving litigants will thereby be deprived of the bread they need and are entitled to.

Whatever proposals are put into effect, they must surely make special provision to protect those under legal disability.

Yours faithfully,
GRAEME WILLIAMS,
13 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4,
November 19.

National treasures

From Mr Mike Rainey

Sir, I read with surprise that government departments are to be allowed to sell "their assets" (reports, November 25).

I had always assumed that the sort of treasures referred to — the Royal Parks, the National Gallery, Marble Arch, etc. — belonged to the nation and that the government of the day had responsibility for them. Perhaps I am wrong.

An authoritative government statement setting out the precise legal situation might leave a lot of people better reconciled to what appears to be "selling the family silver".

Yours truly,
MIKE RAINNEY,
10 Malvern Close,
Bishops Waltham, Hampshire,
November 25.

Case for carriers

From Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly

Sir, There can be little doubt that the need for mobile landing platforms for RN and RAF and Army aircraft, or for mobile missile ships is more pressing than it was even in the early Sixties (letter, November 18).

The problems then were that the Director General (Ships) was being invited to design a conventionally fuelled steam-driven carrier of comparable fighting power to the vast US carriers then on the stocks. Furthermore, the Board of Admiralty were asking him in terms of operational equipment and machinery to insert a quart into a pint pot in the form of displacement cost. And even then it came out at £500 million plus per ship.

In 1962, with Hawker-Siddeley's help, a sketch design was produced of a mini-carrier with gas turbines, not far removed from the *Invincible*. This later filled the gap when Denis Healey rightly removed the mammoths from the drawing board.

The problems are equally difficult today. But without the need for steam propulsion, and again with the help of the aircraft industry, the incomparable Royal Corps of Naval Constructors will surely be able to design a class of aircraft or missile carrier within acceptable financial constraints.

Yours truly,
LOUIS LE BAILLY,
Garlands House,
St Tudy, Bodmin, Cornwall,
November 18.

Wigs and gowns

From Mr Frank L. Shaw, JP

Sir, His Honour Judge Peter Smith (letter, November 24) may take comfort in the anonymity conferred by his wig and gown, but spare a thought for the 30,000 lay magistrates in this country who impose significant penalties on those they find guilty of serious offences.

They have no benefit of judicial garments and are far more likely to meet in the community those who have appeared before them.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK SHAW
(Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Governors),
University of Central England in Birmingham,
Perry Barr, Birmingham,
November 24.

Taking sides on foxhunting debate

From Mr Mike Huskisson

Sir, For a nation that prides itself on its concern for wildlife and its all-embracing compassion we should not lag behind any country in wildlife protection. On Friday next MPs should take the opportunity to catch up afforded by Michael Foster's Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill.

We may be late, but with France and the Republic of Ireland still allowing the hounding of wildlife we need not be last. Foxhunting and its like is bullying in fancy dress. There should be no place for such savagery in a compassionate society.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. HUSKISSON,
Animal Welfare Information Service,
PO Box 8, Halesworth, Suffolk,
November 22.

From Mr Neil Moore

Sir, It is one thing to disapprove of hunting, quite another to seek to impose that view on others by legislation.

I am alarmed by the arrogant, even totalitarian, attitude which says, in effect: "I do not approve, therefore you must not do it."

Yours etc,
NEIL MOORE,
Le Berrail, St Mawes, Cornwall,
November 24.

From Lord Renton, QC

Sir, Nobody wants foxes exterminated, but their numbers have to be controlled.

If they are not killed by being hunted, they are snared, trapped or poisoned, generally causing them great pain and slow death; or they can be shot — which, if they are wounded and escape often causes gangrene, a horrible death. They can be dealt with as a rule by spotting and shooting with

rifles at night, but not everyone has the requisite equipment and manpower for that, nor is the method always effective.

When hunted with hounds, foxes are killed within five or six seconds (which I have often counted) after hounds close in on them. This is the quickest, most certain and least painful death of all, even after a long chase.

Hunting is, therefore, normally less cruel than other ways of killing foxes.

Yours truly,
DAVID RENTON,
House of Lords,
November 24.

From Mr R. P. Thompson

Sir, You featured on November 17 the RSPCA's full-page advertisement showing three dead foxes, with the message that foxes are disembowelled alive by hounds during hunting. This is obviously ridiculous. Any attempt to bite the underside of a live fox would expose the hound's neck to the fox's very sharp teeth. The hound will do as its ancestors have done for thousands of years and kill quickly, with minimum risk of retaliation, by biting the back of the neck.

The dead fox may well be disembowelled subsequently when the rest of the pack arrives. To say that this is cruel is like saying that cutting up a dead lamb, cooking and chewing it is cruel.

There is no evidence that these are not photographs of foxes killed on the roads or by other means. The middle one, which has no fur on its brush, was obviously suffering from mange, a highly contagious disease which is often mortal.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. THOMPSON,
New Hayes, Chard, Somerset,
November 18.

Threat of BSE 'nightmare' in the US

From Mr Sheldon Rampton and Mr John Stauber

Sir, There is indeed, as you reported (November 14), strong evidence suggesting that a form of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) occurs in US cattle, but we do not attempt in our book, *Mad Cow USA: Could the nightmare happen here?*, to offer a quantitative estimate of the number of affected animals.

Clarence Gibbs, a leading TSE researcher of the US National Institutes of Health who shares our conclusions, argues that "All mammalian species thus far tested have the prion protein" which causes mad cow disease and the other TSEs. As a result, Gibbs explains, "Every mammalian species in the world should have its own spongiform encephalopathy, which means that the disease is endemic in all species. You cannot escape it."

Gibbs expects that TSE in US cattle would be found at a rate of one per million animals per year — considerably less than the "thousands" of cases claimed in your report. A disease this rare becomes a serious problem only through the practice of "animal cannibalism" — the feeding of rendered animal proteins back to their own species, which enables the disease to multiply, as happened in Britain.

Our motivation for writing our book was to draw attention to the fact that this feeding practice, which has been banned in Britain since the late 1980s, continues on a massive scale in the United States. While it continues, the US remains in danger of a health and economic nightmare like the one in the UK.

The US Government did not take any action to restrict the practice of animal cannibalism, even in cows, until August 1997, and even this was too little, too late. Cows are still nourished here on fats and blood plasma derived from the rendered remains of their own species.

We believe, given this, that Europe is being very prudent in refusing to grant "BSE-free" certification to US-sourced pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Britain's experience with BSE has taught a painful lesson about the need for precaution when dealing with human and animal health issues. It is a lesson which, unfortunately, has still not been absorbed by the US Government and animal industry.

Sincerely,
SHELDON RAMPTON,
JOHN STAUBER,
3318 Gregory Street,
Madison, Wisconsin 53711,
November 21.

Hoffnung recalled

From Ms Judy Fitton

Sir, Gerard (not Gerald) Hoffnung — to whom you refer in your leading article of November 19, "Once more with paper bag" — was a renowned cartoonist (and raconteur) who specialised in musical subjects. He was not a composer.

He also played the tuba as an amateur in the Morley College Symphony Orchestra, to which he dedicated a book of musical cartoons. It was then decided to "bring the book to life" and the Hoffnung comic concerts were created.

For the first of these (at which I played in the Royal Festival Hall in 1956) Sir Malcolm Arnold was commissioned to write a *Grand Grand Overture*; it included parts for three vacuum cleaners, a floor polisher and four rifles.

We also performed the *Concerto for Hose Pipe and Strings*, not composed by Hoffnung but based on a composi-

tion by Leopold Mozart. Dennis Brain was the soloist.

Yours sincerely,
JUDY FITTON,
116 Woodward Road, Dulwich, SE22.

From Mrs Molly Beard

Sir, The use of paper bags in the 1812 *Overture* is rightly to be compared with the use made by other composers of everyday kitchen objects. But let us not place "finking tea cups" in the nursery of Benjamin Britten's *Let's Make an Opera*.

According to Britten's biographer, Humphrey Carpenter, the composer had a row of china mugs hung on a length of string, to be hit with a wooden spoon. The sound thus produced represented dripping rain in *Noye's Fludde*.

Yours faithfully,
MOLLY BEARD,
29 Rectory Farm Road,
Little Wilbraham, Cambridge,
November 20.

Oxbridge MPs

From Mr Robin Hayley

Sir, Mr Duncan Fallowell (letter, November 20) finds it "quite terrifying" that the editor of *Oxford Today*, the official university magazine, considers it a healthy sign that the proportion of MPs educated at Oxbridge is in decline.

I find myself in complete agreement with the editor, whose allegiance is presumably to the universities. That fewer graduates from these institutions are now attracted to the sordid and intellectually vacuous world of politics can only reflect well on the institutions themselves.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HAYLEY,
5 Upper Wimpole Street, W1,
November 20.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Today's monarchy popular not divine

From Mr Donald Watts

Sir, You say that "The hand of Labour could clearly be discerned in the seating plan of the [people's] banquet" (leading article, November 22).

The Queen, however, has long been assiduous in keeping "close to popular concerns" as the guest lists for her private luncheons, published in your columns and containing the names of many citizens unknown to the public at large, serve to show.

On the other hand, the receptions given by the Prime Minister since assuming office appear to have been largely devoted to entertainment of show-biz celebrities and sporting personalities who are scarcely a representative cross-section of our society.

If there are any lessons to be learned in "keeping in touch" perhaps it is not the Queen who needs them.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD WATTS,
Coastguard Cottage,
Lighthouse Close,
Hunstanton, Norfolk,
November 23.

From Mr Alan Millard

Sir, The Reverend Dr Ian Bradley (letter, November 22) suggests we should "think much more about the religious basis of monarchy" and accept the Old Testament as evidence that the monarchy is not "the creature of popular opinion, but rather a divinely instituted symbol and mystery".

Far from supporting such a view, the account given in 1 Samuel viii could be taken to imply that the monarchy was very much the creature of popular opinion and was instituted, in effect, by the elders of Israel. Jealous of their neighbouring states, they had abandoned their trust in God and said to Samuel, "Appoint us a king to govern us like everyone else" (New English Bible). It was only after the people refused to listen to Samuel's arguments against having a monarchy that God instructed him to "Take them at their word and appoint them a king".

If this interpretation is accepted, might it be wiser not to think too much about the religious basis of monarchy?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MILLARD,
8 Medford Court,
Marine Parade West,
Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire,
November 22.

From Mr B. W. Wellcome

Sir, You rightly remind us of Prince Philip's important role as "the Duke behind the Throne" (leading article, "Golden Duke", November 20). Seventeen years after her marriage Queen Victoria conferred the official title of Prince Consort on her husband. Surely Prince Philip could now be persuaded to accept the same honour.

Yours faithfully,
BOB WELLCOME,
4 Tudor Close,
Findon, Worthing, West Sussex,
November 22.

Proceed with care

From Mrs Margot Turnbull

Sir, More words of wisdom (letters, November 11, 13, 18, 24): my tube of hand-cream bears the instructions: "Apply sparingly before and after you use your hands."

Yours faithfully,
MARGOT TURNBULL,
8 Bevere Court,
Bevere, Worcester,
November 24.

From Mrs Joan New

Sir, I treasure a small knife with a retractable blade carrying the warning: "Keep out of children."

Yours faithfully,
JOAN NEW,
4 Harnham Road,
Harnham, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
November 25.

From Mr Colin Mackay

Sir, Purchased in my local supermarket, a packet of pepperoni with the useful instruction: "Do not eat packaging."

Yours faithfully,
COLIN MACKAY,
26b Holly Cove,
Ramblewood Village,
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054,
cm@colsvr.col.uk.bis.cdp.com
November 20.

From Mr Michael Vaisey

Sir, A firm of contractors here operates a fleet of mammoth 16-wheel trucks. Inscribed on the rear bumper of each one is the instruction: "Do not push."

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL VAISEY,
Fullers Hill,
Little Gransden,
Sandy, Bedfordshire,
November 24.

From Dr Anthony Abrahams

Sir, My nervous springer spaniel was prescribed some Valium by her vet. The label warned: "May cause drowsiness. If affected do not drive."

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY ABRAHAM,
76 Temple Road, Cowley, Oxford,
November 22.

NEWS

Brown's bonus for old and young

Gordon Brown sweetened an austere message on pay and spending yesterday with a surprise £400 million to help pensioners with winter fuel bills. And he tried to defuse a backbench revolt by promising single parents £300 million for the founding of child care clubs for a million children.

The populist announcements came in the Chancellor's first draft Budget, aimed at ending some of the secrecy surrounding the real thing. Pages 1, 2, 10-13, 23, 27-30

14-year-olds miss the mark

Almost half of 14-year-olds fail to make the grade in history, geography and technology, according to the first results published for every national curriculum subject. Achievement in information technology was particularly low, with only 18 per cent doing better than expected for their age. Page 1

Saddam's threat

The United Nations believes that Saddam Hussein may have produced enough of the deadly VX chemical weapon to kill everyone on Earth, the US Defence Secretary said. Page 1

Lord Denning, OM

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, who will be 99 in January, has been appointed to the Order of Merit. Other new members are Sir Norman Foster and Sir Denis Rooke. Page 9

Spencer claim

Earl Spencer's lawyers claimed that his estranged wife, Victoria, would only "squander" the £3.75 million divorce settlement she is demanding because of her drink and drug problems. Page 3

Winnie allegation

A former member of the Mandela United Football Club said he saw Winnie Madikizela-Mandela plunge a "sharp object" twice into the tortured body of Stompie Moeketsi Seipei. Page 14

Free sports

Jack Charlton, Steve Cram and Michael Parkinson are to help in deciding which sporting events should be protected for the nation and broadcast free of charge on television. Page 4

Paula's progress

A judge has allowed Paula Jones to amend her harassment action against President Clinton, effectively placing her own sexual history off limits to questioning by his lawyers. Page 15

British TV is tops

Channel 4 and the BBC shared four of the six International Emmy awards, television's equivalent of the Oscars, at a ceremony in New York. Page 6

Rabies in retreat

Rabies is retreating in Europe thanks to vaccine dropped by aircraft. But foxes are carrying an equally dangerous disease caused by a tapeworm. Page 16

Southport gloom

Gentle Southport has failed to break free from Selson council. Residents fear it will become just another grey suburb of Liverpool. Page 7

Lenin secrets

One of Lenin's embalmers has disclosed that the institute in charge of preserving the body "for eternity" continually experimented with bodies. Page 17

Internet romance

A widowed vicar in Oldham is to give up the cloth after 25 years and start a new life by the seaside after finding a bride on the Internet. Page 8

Netanyahu at bay

Plans by Binyamin Netanyahu to return more of the occupied West Bank to the Palestinians are threatening the survival of his government. Pages 19, 23

Honeymoon alone for lawyer

Tasos Michael, a London shipping lawyer, jilted his New York society bride, a banana heiress, while she was sitting in a Rolls-Royce outside the church. The reception for 250 went ahead. Mr Michael flew alone to a luxury hotel in Tahiti where he intends to stay for the scheduled nine days of the honeymoon. He said: "I just wanted to get away." Page 5



A hundred thousand plastic hands planted outside Parliament House in Canberra by people opposed to the Australian Government's Aboriginal rights Bill. The "Wik amendment" makes it harder for Aboriginals to claim land title rights. Page 19

BUSINESS

Mail deal: The Post Office has agreed a pay deal to increase the wages for its 160,000 mail workers by up to 4 per cent. Page 27

Canary Wharf

The board of the office development in London's Docklands is to recommence speculative building there for the first time since the project ran into trouble in the early 1990s. Page 27

Thistle: Robert Peel

Robert Peel, chief executive of Thistle Hotels for 20 years, will pocket a pay-off of more than £500,000 after stepping down. Pages 28, 30, 32

Markets: The FTSE 100 index

The FTSE 100 index fell 35.1 points to close at 4863.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.2 to 103.9 after a fall from \$1.6924 to \$1.6813 and from DM2.9368 to DM2.9315. Page 30

Motor rallying: Colin McRae

Colin McRae won the Network Q RAC Rally but Tommi Makinen retained the world championship title, beating him by one point. Page 52

Football: Newcastle United

Newcastle United visit Barcelona in the Champions League with only a mathematical possibility of qualifying for the quarter-finals. Page 49

Rugby union: Wales

Wales have made five changes for the match against New Zealand, recalling David Young, Gareth Llewellyn, Allan Bateman, Kevin Morgan and Robert Howley. Page 49

Cricket: Michael Atherton

Michael Atherton, who less than three months ago was on the verge of giving up the England captaincy, is relishing facing West Indies again. Page 45

Peter's friend: Peter Brook

Peter Brook, the great interpreter, talks about his new staging of Beckett's *Oh Les Beaux Jours* - and explains why this time he is playing it straight. Page 38

Rising star: Was the 25-year-old

director Rupert Goold attracted to the theatre by the prospect of fame? No - "it was the best way to meet girls at school". Page 38

Boo who? Some of the audience

booed the Royal Opera's new staging of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, but not Rodney Milnes - he was too busy laughing. Page 39

Born-again folk: At 56 Joan Baez

has not only produced a new album full of passion and energy, but kicked off a British tour with a terrific gig in Sussex. Page 40

Which report: Jason Cowley

talks to a couple who met through a cyber. They claim that witches have had 2,000 years of bad publicity, and are they proud to call themselves pagan. Page 26

Metron power: Women are suddenly

the more militant sex. They don't want less marriage and domesticity: they want more lasting vows, more time at home and more financial security. Page 21

Lessons in life: Nigella Lawson

on a lesson the Duchess of York is only just starting to learn: the strange idea of sending children to boarding school; and the joy of being an omnivore. Page 21

Cold call: Why a London council

is pouring cold water on treatments for so-called rising damp. Page 37

The turbulence in Asia

might tempt some countries to back away from harsh measures, but they should realise that the markets are demanding long-postponed moves to open financial systems to scrutiny and competition, lower trade barriers and reduce government regulation. Page 13

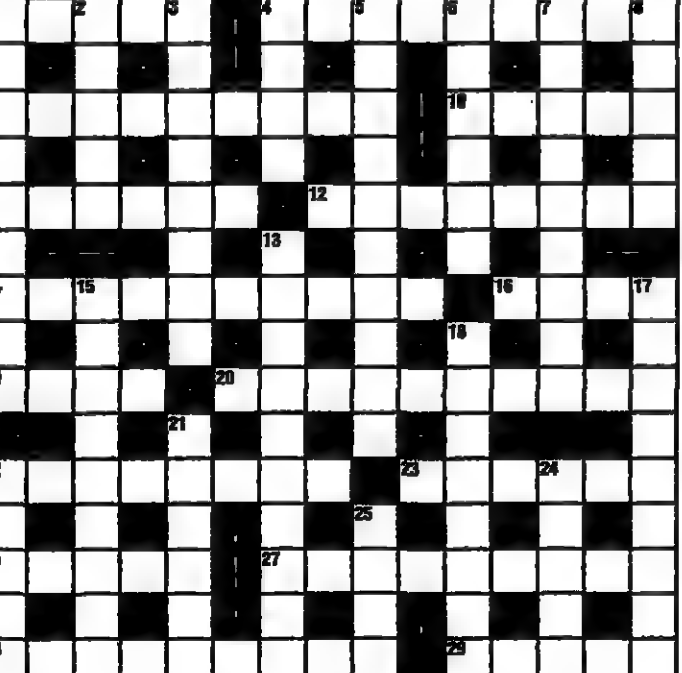
Legal aid reforms and the disabled

foxhunting 'Bill': monarchy and people; BSE risks in America: need for aircraft carriers. Page 23

Jeremy Potter, publisher and novelist

Heleno Herrera, football coach; Frank Steele, intelligence officer and banker. Page 25

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,647



- ACROSS
- 1 Wood producing most oleoresin (5).
 - 2 Frank has county title (9).
 - 3 First cola cocktail in modern glasses (9).
 - 10 Strains faced by those who accept criticism (5).
 - 11 Drink made by following flip-chart (3-3).
 - 12 Close-ups of celebrities (3,5).
 - 14 Ticker-tapes read in this study? (10).
 - 16 Dutch production superior to *The Mouse Trap* (4).
 - 19 Person sitting next to dealer in maize bread (4).
 - 20 Drunk's rowdy companion (10).
 - 21 Proceeds to give wife a knock (8).
 - 23 Follower of Falstaff liable to go off (6).
 - 26 Turn out to see seconds in crushing defeat (5).
- DOWN
- 1 One of the 15 to flatter captain initially? (9).
 - 2 Scots shrink from article found in the heather (5).
 - 3 Vindication of a game American serving ace (8).
 - 4 Good quality of wood (4).
 - 5 'Coming clean' fashion of a young feller in America (10).
 - 6 As misers unusually might be with change? (6).
 - 7 Cut of more traditional sort seen at the Oval (9).
 - 8 Changes in way duty is declared (5).
 - 13 Sadly floating by Sunderland, for example (6-4).
 - 15 These flowers uncured in a storm (9).
 - 17 Nurseryman's guarded prediction about blossoming hawthorn? (9).
 - 18 Split those on board here may see on the horizon (8).
 - 21 Sifting target of two boys (6).
 - 22 Cultivates plant (5).
 - 24 Brief as required for quarter-sessions (5).
 - 25 Angel Clare's partner in mixed sets (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,646

ACROSS

- 1 WOOD
- 2 FRANK
- 3 COLA
- 10 STRAIN
- 11 FLIP
- 12 CELEB
- 14 TAPES
- 16 DUTCH
- 19 MAIZE
- 20 DRUNK
- 21 PROCEED
- 23 FOLLOW
- 26 TURN

DOWN

- 1 ONE
- 2 SCOTS
- 3 VINDIC
- 4 WOOD
- 5 CLEAN
- 6 MISERS
- 7 CUT
- 8 CHANGES
- 13 SUND
- 15 FLOWERS
- 17 NURSERY
- 18 SPLIT
- 21 SIFTING
- 22 CULTIV
- 24 BRIEF
- 25 ANGEL

FORECAST

General: most of England and Wales will start dry but cloudy. Rain will spread from the South West, with central and eastern areas staying dry. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with rain in west, and more persistently in eastern Scotland.

London, E & W Midlands, N Wales, SE Central S, NW and Central N England: mostly dry with a few bright intervals. Wind moderate E. Max 10C (50F).

E Anglia, E England: mainly cloudy and dry. Wind moderate or fresh E. Max 8C (46F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: mainly cloudy, rain at times. Wind fresh E. Max 11C (52F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: mainly cloudy with rain. Sunny intervals. Wind fresh SE. Max 10C (50F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: cloudy and misty with hill fog. Rain or drizzle. Wind moderate SE. Max 7C (45F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy, occasional rain. Wind fresh or strong SE. Max 8C (46F).

Republic of Ireland: cloudy, rain at times. Wind moderate SE. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook: unsettled and wet.

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA's nationwide network of dealers. Call from your fax machine, you get the best of both worlds. AA's nationwide network of dealers. Call from your fax machine, you get the best of both worlds.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.8% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996.

TOP OF THE POPS

What makes Coda WEA's most popular private health scheme? Comprehensive cover, value for money, and the best customer service of them all.

OWPA

Western Provident Association. FREECALL 0500 41 42 43

ROAD

☐ Lakes District, Isle of Man, SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: mainly cloudy with rain. Sunny intervals. Wind fresh SE. Max 10C (50F).						
☐ NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: cloudy and misty with hill fog. Rain or drizzle. Wind moderate SE. Max 7C (45F).						
☐ Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy, occasional rain. Wind fresh or strong SE. Max 8C (46F).						
☐ Republic of Ireland: cloudy, rain at times. Wind moderate SE. Max 11C (52F).						
☐ Outlook unsettled and wet.						

cloud storm; drizzle; hail; fog; rain; gale; wind; rain; snow; sun;

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY

BUSINESS

Alasdair Murray
on the costs of the
El Niño visitation
PAGE 31

HOMES

How a mill is being
restored for the
new millennium
PAGE 36

SPORT

Makinen keeps
McRae at bay in
rally championship
PAGE 45-52

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1997

Brown's ACT action to woo business

By Alasdair Murray, Paul Durman and Philip Bassett

GORDON BROWN took another step towards wooing big business yesterday by unveiling plans to abolish advance corporation tax and cut the rate of corporation tax. His proposals received a cautious welcome in the City, although some businesses were worried that the change could hit corporate cashflow.

Leading tax accountants also expressed concern that the Chancellor's intention to introduce anti-avoidance tax measures could increase uncertainty over tax planning.

Mr Brown told the House of Commons yesterday that the current corporate tax system had become a "hindrance" to business and that he wanted to introduce reforms for the long term. The plans, which formed the centrepiece of his pre-Budget report, include the abolition of ACT from 1999 and a 1 per cent cut in corporation tax to 30 per cent from April 1999.

Corporation tax will be payable in quarterly instalments in future, although the new system will be phased in over four years and companies will be able to use up existing ACT surpluses. Mr Brown added that small companies will be exempt from the new tax structure while special arrangements will be made to help medium-sized firms adjust to the changes.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said it favoured the thrust of reform but remained concerned about the details. "The figures set out today by the Government suggest a negative impact on

corporate cashflow for the initial four years."

William Bush, specialist in corporate taxation at BDO-Stoy Hayward, said: "It has helped to simplify the system, adding that any cashflow problems should be compensated by the cut in the rate of tax."

A WORKING party sponsored by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, and chaired by Keith McCullagh, chief executive of British Biotech, will look at how finance can be improved for small and high-technology companies (Christine Buckley writes).

The group will include Peter Williams, the executive chairman of Oxford Instruments, Hugh Stevenson, chairman of Mercury Asset Management, and Derek Higgs, chairman of Prudential Portfolio Managers.

The working party will look at how to help to finance businesses whose needs are smaller than the levels usually catered for by venture capitalists, or whose requirements are very long term.

The Federation of Small Businesses yesterday welcomed the move.

tax to 30 per cent. This view was supported by market strategists who estimated that the measures would add about 2 per cent to company profits within 18 months.

Mr Brown also unveiled plans to introduce a general provision against anti-avoidance, a stance adopted by



Post haste: Sir Michael Heron, chairman of the Post Office, wanted to conclude a pay agreement as quickly as possible

Pay restraint lost on Post Office

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Post Office has agreed a pay deal increasing the wages for its 160,000 mail workers by up to 4 per cent, going against yesterday's call by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, for public sector pay restraint.

Sir Michael Heron, chairman of the Post Office, was keen to conclude a rapid pay agreement to avoid the possibility of disruption to the Christmas post and conflict with new proposals on the future of the Post Office to come from the Government's review.

Last Friday morning negotiators from the Royal Mail and the Communication Workers' Union concluded a pay agree-

ment giving rises of around 4 per cent to its main postal employees — much higher than many other recent deals in the public sector.

The outline deal, which the union's governing executive council is expected to approve at a meeting this afternoon, gives rises of 3.3 per cent in basic pay, increases in allowances of the same amount and a lump sum payment of £55.

The agreement, which will be backdated to October 6, is structured towards bigger rises for the lowest paid in Royal Mail. Union negotiators say it gives overall rises of about 4 per cent. Current

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET SERVICES

FTSE 100	4883.5	(-35.1)
Yield	3.33%	
FTSE All share	2296.88	(-14.11)
Nikkei	15867.53	(-354.08)
Dow Jones	7759.72	(-8.20)
S&P Composite	948.97	(+0.30)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 1/8%	(100 1/8%)
Yield	6.06%	(6.07%)

LONDON MARKET

3-month Treasury bill	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	118 1/8%	(118 1/8%)
Future (Dec)		

NEW YORK

Dollar	1.6810	(1.6810)
London	1.6808	(1.6825)
DM	2.3002	(2.3070)
FF	6.5023	(6.5330)
Sfr	1.4075	(1.4025)
Yen	214.32	(214.47)
£ Index	103.9	(104.2)

US\$ DOLLAR

London	1.7480	(1.7388)
FF	5.8380	(5.8185)
Sfr	1.4075	(1.4025)
Yen	127.45	(126.88)
£ Index	108.7	(108.5)

Tokyo close Yen 127.70

MONTHLY RENT

Brent 15-day (Feb)	£18.08	(£18.00)
--------------------	--------	----------

WORLD

London close	\$801.85	(\$804.25)
--------------	----------	------------

* denotes midday trading price

New 'junk' rating heightens Tokyo meltdown fears

By Robert Garran in Tokyo and Richard Miles

FEARS of a financial meltdown in Tokyo intensified yesterday after a leading credit-rating agency downgraded the debt of Yasuda, Japan's fourth largest trust bank, to junk status.

Standard & Poor's said doubts about the quality of Yasuda's loan book, coupled with rising stock market volatility, a slumping economy and a lack of confidence among investors would make it difficult for the bank to recover its health.

A similar downgrading to junk status by Moody's preceded the collapse on Monday of Yamachi, Japan's fourth largest securities broker. Bankers fear the firm's failure under a debt mountain of ¥3 trillion (£15 billion) could spark a systemic crisis among financial institutions in Tokyo.

Share prices plunged in Tokyo overnight as investors reacted to the collapse of Yamachi. The Nikkei 225 index slumped more than 5 per cent, closing 854 points lower at 15,867. The yen fell to

its lowest level against the dollar for five years.

However, the worst fears were mitigated to an extent by signs that a committee of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party was close to agreement on using public funds to bail out troubled banks.

Other banks with low credit status include Daiwa Bank, one of the nation's largest financial institutions, IBCA, an international rating agency, ranks Daiwa as a BBB-plus, narrowly ahead of Nippon Credit Bank. Yasuda and Hokkaido Tokai Shokai went under earlier this month.

With assets of about £50 billion, Yasuda Trust & Banking Co is the fourth biggest of Japan's seven trust banks, and the 16th largest of the top 20. Banking sources said last night that Fuji Bank might be interested in coming to its rescue.

On Wall Street, fears of a Japanese sell-off of US government bonds resurfaced.

Janet Bush, page 31

Bank gets hint on rates rise

By Alasdair Murray
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor dropped a strong hint to the Bank of England yesterday that interest rates need to rise further, after raising his autumn estimates of economic growth and inflation for next year.

Gordon Brown increased his growth forecast for next year by a quarter point, to 2.75 per cent, while his prediction for the underlying rate of inflation was raised by a similar amount, to 3 per cent. Both forecasts are above those made by the Bank of England.

Mr Brown also surprised the City by revising down the public sector borrowing requirement forecast marginally this year, despite a strong performance, and raising the debt prediction for 1998. Economists interpreted this as evidence he would like further rates rises early next year.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse, said that the cues were on the monetary policy committee to take action.

Feed add, page 1
Matthew Parris, page 2
Anastole Kaletsky, page 10
Peter Riddell, page 13
Leading article, page 23
State of the nation, page 28
Commentary, page 29
Markets, page 30

Pit closures on the horizon despite RJB's £600m deal

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

RJB MINING will today announce a long-awaited £600 million deal with National Power, the country's biggest generator. However the deal is for RJB to supply much less coal and is not expected to stop pit closures being announced soon.

RJB and National Power will announce a flexible deal for three or four years, during which the generator will take a maximum of 20 million tonnes. The price for the coal is likely to be at the higher end of 110p to 120p per gigajoule, although it will vary throughout the contract.

More coal is likely to go to the generator at the beginning of the contract, with supplies being phased down.

The deal, which is crucial for RJB's future plans and for pit closures, will represent a substantial fall in sales to National Power after a large part of the generator's coal needs have gone to smaller producers. This year RJB supplied about 15 million tonnes of coal to National Power,

PAYING TOO MUCH FOR LIFE ASSURANCE?

Direct Life & Pensions offer genuinely impartial advice on the best cover and very best rates for you.

THE FREE ILLUSTRATIONS WE OBTAIN ARE AMONGST THE MOST COMPETITIVE AVAILABLE, EVERY TIME WE QUOTE.

Consider the illustrations below for monthly premiums, on a 20 year, £100,000 level term assurance.

Male & female both aged 35 next birthday and non-smokers		Male & female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers	
Midland Life	30.75	Midland Life	69.51
Abbey National Life	32.78	Commercial Union	75.00
Barclays Life	35.40	Abbey National Life	77.58
Commercial Union	36.00	Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	41.58	Friends Provident	88.99
Pearl Assurance	44.00	Pearl Assurance	99.00
Clerical Medical	45.50	Clerical Medical	111.20
London & Manchester	50.85	London & Manchester	111.54
Scottish Life	58.51	Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for	22.91 p.m.	We can arrange this for	52.16 p.m.

Life assurance • Income replacement plans
Mortgage protection • Critical illness

THE BEST RATES. THE BEST COMPANIES. THE BEST ADVICE. JUST ONE FRIENDLY PHONE CALL AWAY!

CALL FREE 0800 980 1998 8.30am - 6.30pm

direct life & pension services

Direct Life & Pension Services Limited is an Appointed Representative of Ward Mortgages Limited who are independent Financial Advisers regulated by the Financial Services Authority for investment business. Registered in England no. 2613375

Circle on on the web: <http://www.dlps.co.uk> Immediate quote via E-mail: quote@dlps.co.uk

Canary Wharf resumes development

By Martin Waller

THE board of Canary Wharf, the office development in London's Docklands, is to recommence speculative building there for the first time since the project ran into trouble in the early 1990s.

The decision to go ahead with a 200,000 sq ft building at Columbus Courtyard, next to premises occupied by Credit Suisse First Boston, was taken at a board meeting in New York last night. It is an important step for

Canary Wharf and for the London property market, both of which are suffering from a shortage of large-scale empty office space of the sort needed by big investment banks.

The board — led by Paul Reichmann, whose Olympia & York group originally developed Canary Wharf — has also sanctioned a fresh design for Heron Quays, south of the existing buildings. This is the next potential candidate for speculative development. Directors have also

agreed to build further retail space and a 1,000-space car park at Canada Square, east of the tower.

Canary Wharf was one of the biggest property developments in the history of London. As a greenfield site in an untested location, it had to be built before tenants could be signed up. But these failed to materialise in the economic downturn of the early 1990s and the project went into administration in 1992.

However the existing space is now

almost full and property experts say further growth would be limited by the need to pre-let any new sites to a tenant before construction is started, unless the owners are prepared to take on some of the risk by building speculatively again.

Therefore the board has decided to ensure that there is at least one speculative building under construction at any given time. Should this find a tenant before it is completed, a second will be started.

Brown's objectives for the British economy

Chancellor states the need for long-term focus to reach goals

THE Government's central economic objective is to achieve high and stable levels of growth and employment so that everyone in Britain can share in higher living standards and greater job opportunities.

In the modern global marketplace this challenging objective requires continuous increases in productivity, the breaking down of all barriers to growth and job creation, and a permanent improvement in the employability of the British people.

A strong economy is an essential foundation for the provision of high-quality public services. While the Government is determined to ensure that every penny spent on public services is used as effectively as possible, the overall level of provision that will be possible

in future is strongly dependent on the overall performance of the economy.

The achievement of these goals requires a long-term focus. Major improvements are needed both in Britain's markets and in its labour market. Britain's productivity is significantly behind its major competitors, and in nearly 20 per cent of households with people of working age, no one is currently in work. Economic stability is also essential. In the past, long-term development has often been the victim of short-term cycles of boom and bust which have destroyed good jobs and good businesses and disrupted public services. Low inflation and low government borrowing are both essential building blocks for long-term growth.

The Government's new ar-

rangements for monetary policy have given operational responsibility for setting interest rates to the Bank of England. This has strengthened the prospects for meeting the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent for RPIX inflation. Since May, market expectations of inflation have fallen by about a full percentage point, lending support to this view.

The monetary framework is being legislated for under the Bank of England Bill. This has now reached Committee stage and is expected to receive Royal Assent by spring 1998. The Bill will ensure that the Government retains clear responsibility to Parliament for defining goals of monetary policy, while the Bank is accountable for its achievement. The UK's monetary policy framework is among the most transparent and accountable in the world and it means that people and business can now plan ahead with far greater assurance that the inflation target will be met.

The challenge now is to apply a similar approach to fiscal policy — to put in place arrangements to ensure that governments will always set fiscal policy in ways that promote economic stability and which are in Britain's long-term interests. The Government therefore proposes to legislate for a Code for Fiscal Stability.

The code would require the Government to:

- Adhere to a set of principles of fiscal policy management.
- Make available a wider range of information on fiscal policy than before, with the same emphasis on reporting and accountability that has been made in the monetary policy framework.
- Ensure that the information produced on the basis of high-quality accounting standards.

The July Budget set out two rules which will guide fiscal policy: The golden rule that over the economic cycle the Government will borrow only to invest and not to fund current expenditure and the



Pre-Budget Report

November 1997



Securing Britain's long-term economic future

	1997	1998	1997	1998
GDP growth (%)	3.5	2.25-2.75	3.25	2.5
Manufacturing output growth (%)	1.75	1.5-1.75	1.5	0.75
Consumer expenditure growth (%)	4.5	3.5-3.75	4.5	4.0
Inflation (RPIX 4th quarter %)	2.75	3.0	2.5	2.75
Current account	£22.2bn	£22.2bn	£20bn	£20bn
PSBR - excluding windfall tax	£12.0bn	£5.0bn	£13.3bn	£5.4bn

rule that public debt as a proportion of national income will be held over the economic cycle at a stable and prudent level.

The deficit reduction plan announced in July remains on course to meet these rules. The government deficit and debt ratios are expected to be significantly below the Maastricht reference values in 1997 and thereafter.

The Government's mon-

etary and fiscal policies will play a critical role in developing the period of stability that is necessary before the UK is ready to join EMU, should the Government, Parliament and the people so decide. The Government plans to monitor the inflation target in the light of the practices of the European Central Bank and will ensure that the effect of the fiscal rules, and the deficit reduction plan, continue to be

consistent with the terms of the stability and growth pact. The Government is at present conducting the comprehensive spending review promised in its election manifesto. This is looking at each department's objectives and every aspect of spending, within departments and across traditional departmental boundaries. It will ensure that spending contributes to the Government's overall objec-

tives as effectively and efficiently as possible.

A recent report on competitiveness from the Department of Trade showed that many British companies lag well behind the standards of the best. Bringing the rest of British business up to world-class standards will involve tackling a number of deep-seated problems.

Government can play an important role in improving business performance by helping to remove barriers to growth.

- Promoting fair competition and efficient regulation.
- Fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Improving Britain's record on research and development.
- Providing, in partnership with the private sector, the infrastructure and high-quality public services essential to the British economy.
- Ensuring that the tax system promotes high-quality investment.

The Government intends to introduce changes to the tax system in the Budget to improve the environment for high-quality investment.

There have been enormous changes in the labour market in recent years. With developments in new technology and global competition, modern workers need to be able to adapt to rapid change.

In this new environment there are new challenges both for the Government and individuals. Government has responsibilities to:

- Promote a flexible and adaptable labour market.
- Encourage investment in skills.
- Help people from welfare to work.
- Make work pay.

Success in developing long-term policies depends in part on not being diverted by short-term economic factors.

The Treasury's latest economic forecast shows that after growing at close to its trend rate for much of 1995 and 1996 GDP accelerated sharply in the second half of last year, and has grown at an annualised rate of around 4 per cent over the past four quarters. This is well above its sustainable rate. Evidence suggests that there is now little or no spare capacity and signs of skills shortages are emerging in certain areas, in part reflect-

ing past underinvestment in education and training.

The decisive actions being taken by the Government at the start of its term of office will help to deliver the economic stability that is required for lasting growth and high levels of employment. The new monetary framework, which takes decisions on interest rates out of the political arena, gives people and business far greater confidence to plan ahead on the basis that the inflation target will be met.

As a result the Government is more optimistic that the economy is on course to get back on track next year. GDP growth is expected to slow to more sustainable rates from the beginning of 1998, with domestic demand growth slowing through the year and net trade exerting a negative influence.

There can be no complacency about the short-term prospects. The Government is pursuing policies which in the long term will increase the rate of growth the economy can sustain without putting upward pressure on



inflation. It is also taking action to accelerate the impact of the new deal on skills shortages. But it will take time for these policies to work through fully. One of the key choices facing the economy in the coming months is whether wage increases remain at sustainable levels so allowing interest rates to remain as low as possible and growth to continue while the Government's policies have time to begin to work — or whether wage increases accelerate, requiring interest rates to be correspondingly higher in order to hit the inflation target, with an inevitable short-term impact on growth and on employment.

PRE-BUDGET BRIEFING

BRITAIN'S very poorest people could be £5 a month better off under plans floated by the Chancellor to make personal taxation fairer for those on low incomes. Under current rules, each person has an income tax allowance for this financial year of £4,045 and a National Insurance allowance of £3,224. Anyone earning below £77 a week pays no income tax, while above £77 a week income tax is only paid on the difference.

However, they will have to pay national insurance contributions on all earnings once they are being paid more than £62 a week. The Chancellor is believed to regard this system as unfair and a disincentive to those who are unemployed and on benefits but who are offered work.

THE self assessment tax regime is to be extended to companies from July 1999. Under self assessment, companies' tax returns will in-

clude their own assessment of tax liabilities. Already around three million carry out self assessment for their own tax affairs. Introducing self assessment for companies does not change the basic rules for paying tax or filing tax returns. It does mean that companies will have to change their internal administration systems to deal with the new regime.

THE Charity Finance Directors Group is to lobby the review of charity taxation for a reduction in the £1 billion tax burden they face. They want to simplify the system of collecting tax and want a grant back of the irrecoverable VAT that the voluntary sector incurs.

THE Government is to look at improving the UK's record of investment in research and development.

The financing of high-technology companies and barriers that may prevent their growth are to be examined by a new working group.

Who does Guinness Ireland approach when everything in life is not Black and White?

Maintaining pole position in any market sector has never been a black and white issue. The recipe for success for today's modern business includes quality management, adding value and gaining competitive advantage, qualities very close to Guinness Ireland's heart. That's why Guinness chooses CIMA for training its future financial managers. CIMA is a source of advice and support, providing up-to-the minute financial management training programmes for Guinness' staff, while encouraging greater understanding of their business and customers.

Guinness adopted CIMA's new scheme "Training Through Partnership", because its integrated approach meets today's business needs. CIMA ensures that the practical training and experience Guinness offers thoroughly complements the requirements of the CIMA syllabus.

With CIMA on board, Guinness receives on-going support from its local Business Development Manager. Information on the best training practices and a Quality Approved status designed to attract and retain the most gifted and sought-after financial management trainees in the market-place.

So for pure genius follow Guinness Ireland's lead and you too can improve the financial health of your organisation with "Training Through Partnership". Simply complete the coupon below.

YES I'm interested in discovering how my organisation could benefit from participating in CIMA's Training Through Partnership Scheme. Please send me details.

Name _____
Position _____
Organisation _____
Address _____
Tel No _____



CIMA
The Chartered Institute of
Management Accountants

Fax this coupon without delay to 0171 580 8956 or send to
Business Development Division, CIMA, 63 Portland Place, London W1N 4AB

Warning hits EMI share price

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES of EMI, the music and retailing group, dropped 20p to 470p after Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, gave warning that he did not expect much improvement in the "flat" world music industry in the second half of the year.

Sir Colin yesterday said there was nothing wrong with the music industry apart from lack of consumer confidence in markets. EMI has great hope for its releases for the important Christmas season — *The Verve* by the Verve, *Spice World* by the Spice Girls and *Bridges to Babylon* by the Rolling Stones.

The warning came as the company unveiled a 32.8 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £75.6 million for the six months to September 30.

Commenting on reports that EMI is interested in buying Waterstone, the bookseller, Sir Colin said he was not aware it was for sale. "If WH Smith decide to sell, obviously we will take a look at it," he said.

The EMI board is recommending a 6.25 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 4.25p.

Commentary, page 29

Thorn to sell US chain as part of strategy review

BY FRASER NELSON

THORN, the troubled electronic rentals group, is to place its Rent-A-Center chain in the US on the auction block in an attempt to restore some of the £1 billion market value lost since demerger from EMI.

The company is understood to be looking for £300 million from the business, America's largest television rental chain, as the centrepiece of a strategic review announced yesterday.

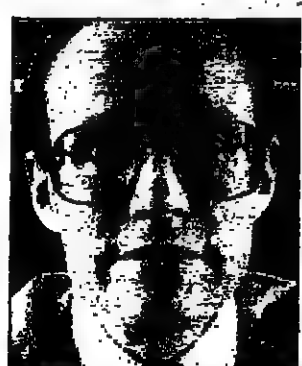
Mike Metcalf, chief executive, said that the review will "consider whether parts of the business may develop better outside Thorn plc". The aim is to revive its market value, which has slumped from £1.5 billion to £566 million in the last 12 months.

City analysts said that a piecemeal sale of its US division is the only option, allowing the company to divorce itself from the threat of £100 million litigation costs from lawsuits that Rent-A-Center faces in five US states. One analyst said: "This disposal would be the ideal solution, but no US player has the money or the inclination to snap up the whole chain. It will have to be done in bits,

which will be difficult." The US division was its best performer in the six months to September 30, where group pre-tax profits slid to £28.4 million (£37.8 million) after a 36 per cent drop in UK profits.

Its core Radio Rentals chain suffered an 11 per cent decline in like-for-like volumes after raising prices 6 per cent. Crazy George, the new rental chain, fared better as its number of stores grew from 63 to 80.

Overall, earnings were down a third at 2.1p. But the dividend, payable on February 28, is frozen at 3.7p.



Metcalf: £300 million aim

Dresdner chief for London

Dresdner Bank has dispatched one of its top executives to take control of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, its British investment banking arm.

Hansgeorg Hoffmann yesterday stood down from the German bank's board of managing directors to become executive chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, based in London.

Boeing action

Boeing's 747 production line has resumed full production under a plan designed to cope with a parts and labour shortage that bogged down assembly lines. The production bottlenecks are so severe that Boeing was forced last month to take a \$1 billion third-quarter charge.

Anglo Irish up

Anglo Irish Bank announced a 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profits on the back of a booming economy in the Republic of Ireland. Profits rose to Ir£ 30.3 million (£26.8 million) for the year to September 30. The dividend was up 13.5 per cent to 4.2p.

Foreign firms to be let into US phone market

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE US Federal Communications Committee (FCC) said yesterday that the American phone market would be opened to foreign companies from more than 100 countries from January 1 in an effort to deregulate and to drive down the cost of overseas calls.

The move threatens British Telecom's expansion plans by allowing many of the world's telecoms companies into a market in which they had previously been prevented from competing.

Carriers in Japan and Aus-

tralia as well as BT's European rivals, such as Deutsche Telekom and Télécom France, are now expected to step up their efforts to find American partners.

Announcements similar to that of the FCC are expected in those countries that are affected under a World Trade Organisation agreement. BT had been able to win approval for its MCI merger under special terms for EU countries.

BT acknowledged that numerous foreign carriers might

now be focusing on the US market. A spokesman said: "The WTO efforts will open up more than 90 per cent of the global telecommunications market by 2001 or 2002. We view that as very positive."

The opening of the US market will allow foreign carriers to operate domestic long-distance services as well as overseas services. Most foreign carriers are expected to concentrate on international calls where they could have a competitive advantage over American carriers.

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	2.54	2.56	
Austria Sch	21.58	19.88	
Belgium Fr	65.55	65.55	
Canada C	0.64	0.64	
Cyprus Cyp	0.901	0.859	
Denmark Kr	11.72	10.15	
Finland Mk	5.92	6.43	
France Fr	10.22	6.46	
Germany M	3.487	2.62	
Greece Dr	486	4.68	
Hong Kong \$	10.00	10.00	
Iceland Kr	1.11	1.01	
Ireland Pt	1.01	1.01	
Israel Shk	6.32	5.67	
Italy Lit	2042	2042	
Japan Yen	227.63	210.10	
Malta M	0.000	0.021	
Netherlands Gld	2.487	2.487	
New Zealand \$	2.85	2.85	
Norway Kr	12.83	11.88	
Portugal Esc	211.02	289.00	
S Africa R	1.04	1.04	
Spain Ptas	236.79	240.00	
Sweden Kr	13.47	12.47	
Switzerland Fr	2.45	2.45	
Turkey Lira	329.90	310.02	
USA \$	1.294	1.441	

Notes: For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

These chief checks
on with £500,000

The sight of the president of one of Japan's once mighty stockbroking powerhouses crying was never likely to be good for investor nerves. The psychological shock of Yamaichi's humbling fall, and the other financial failures that are inevitable across Asia, is likely to reverberate around the region for some time. But, to deduce that the deep pain will spread from the crumpled face of Shohji Nozawa, to Western economies, is too gloomy.

To be sure, President Clinton's weekend description of the disastrous game of dominoes in Asia as "a few little glitches on the road" was an insensitive understatement of the problems facing Asia's finance ministers and central bankers, and probably a cavalier way to address the potential impact on the world economy. It is absolutely imperative that Japan gets its act together and persuades

Japanese tears won't wash much in West

the public that its considerable savings have to be mobilised to bail out the financial sector. Without this, the Nikkei will go on falling, more banks will fail to meet their capital adequacy requirements, and America's hope that Japan will remain financially strong enough to lead the region to recovery will be dashed.

But talk of Japanese companies withdrawing money from the US Treasury bond market and European capital markets is alarmist. One theme that is emerging from the chaos in Asia is a flight to quality. Foreign-owned banks in the Far East, including British-owned institutions that have seen their share prices battered because of their exposure to Asia, as well as

local banks that appear to be quality institutions, have seen large flows from all over Asia into high-yielding accounts.

The more hopelessly riddled with bad debts Asian banks seem to be, the more urgent it is for Japanese investors to find safe havens for their funds. If money is to be liquidated or repatriated, US treasury bonds should be a last resort. Asian equity market holdings seem to be most vulnerable as local firms seek to raise cash, although even in these markets there are already brave souls who are bottom fishing. Japanese government bonds may seem to be a relatively safe investment compared with Japanese shares, but they are likely to become less



attractive if Japan uses significant public funds to bail out the banking system because, after a period of fiscal squeeze, the budget deficit will rise again.

The most attractive investments are in the blue chip bond markets of America and Europe and more,

not less. Asian money ought to flow in, particularly after deregulation in Japan next April allows more funds to be invested abroad. There has been speculation that the Japanese Government may even liquidate some of its holdings of US treasuries to finance its bail-out of banks but this seems outlandish given the enormous foreign exchange losses that private-sector Japanese investors would incur in the process, making bad loan problems even worse.

Western bond markets should become even more of an obvious buy in the months ahead. Nobody knows how deeply the Asian implosion is going to affect the rest of the world. Suffice to say that rising worries about inflation in

America, Britain and even in the slowly recovering economies of continental Europe look increasingly misplaced. If there is a global effect from Asia it should be a deflationary one. The only unknown is whether this will be mild or serious and that depends on the ability of politicians in the Far East to tackle their problems with aggression and without favour to their local banking chums.

On balance, Western economic growth is likely to be dampened but surely not to the extent that recession beckons. Asian markets are going to be hostile to Western imports because demand is likely to be weak for some time. At the same time, Asian companies are likely to try to export themselves

out of trouble, helped by the recent round of competitive devaluations. Of total Asian exports, only 6.3 per cent go to North America and 4.4 per cent to Europe, according to figures provided by Gerard Lyons of DKB International. These totals are likely to rise, trade deficits in the West may deteriorate.

But the advantage of all this for inflation warriors on both sides of the Atlantic is renewed pressure on world prices. The *Journal of Commerce's* commodity price index has fallen to a three-year low, reflecting lower Asian demand. Exporters will find themselves in astonishingly fierce price competition. For America and Britain, agonising about whether they can engineer a soft landing from years of strong growth, a little of the chill wind sweeping across Asia may be just what is needed to take the necessary heat out of their economies.

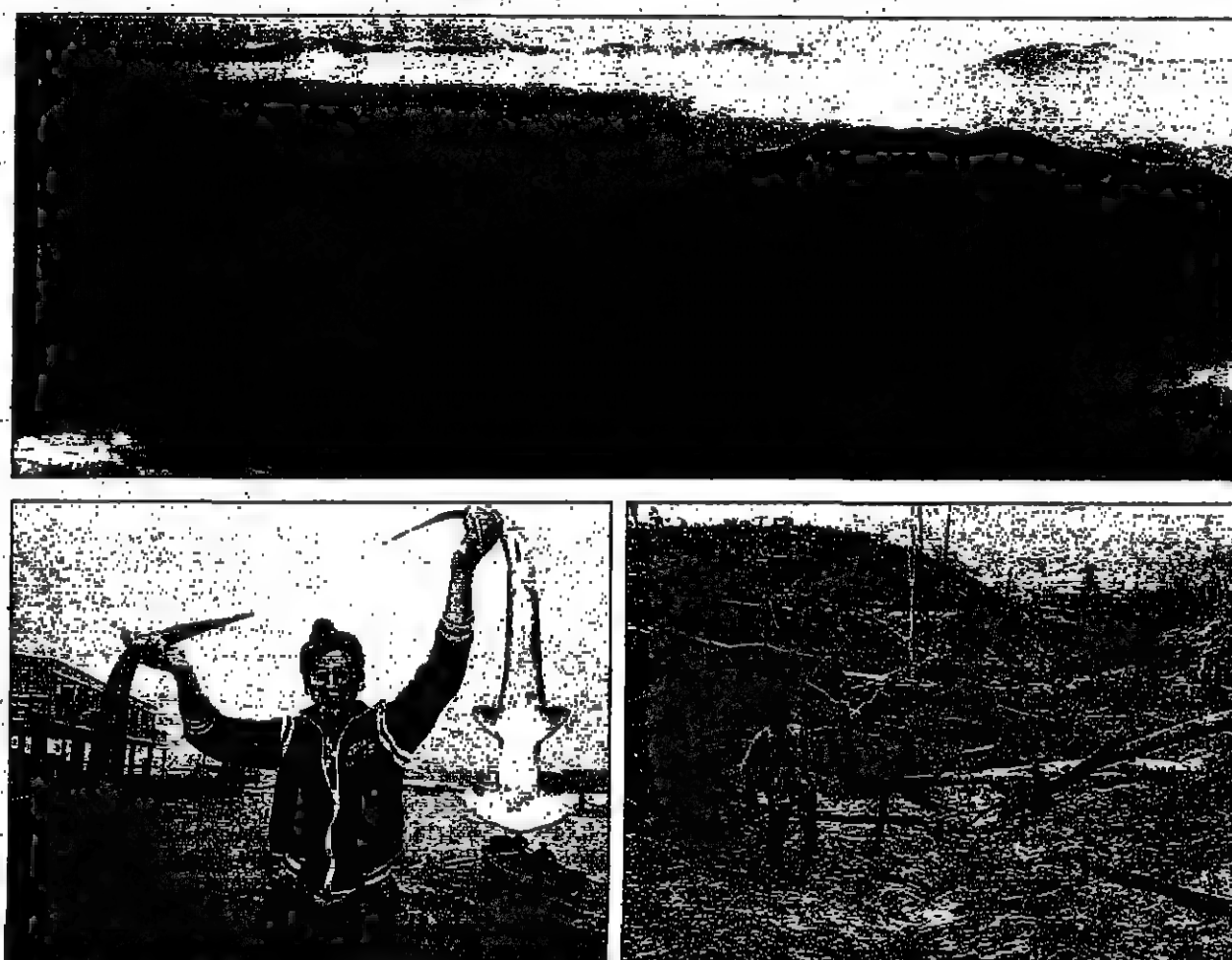
Economists prepare to count cost of impending El Niño visitation

Alasdair Murray on the economic consequences of a weather phenomenon

If ever there was a natural phenomenon that seems predestined to heighten the prevailing sense of pre-millennial tension, it is El Niño — the periodic Pacific weather system that sends normal climate patterns into reverse. El Niño — Christ Child — is the harbinger of floods, drought, famine and plague in countries as far removed as Kenya and Peru. It wrecks the coffee crop in Indonesia and the wheat harvest in South Africa. Even the Caribbean is hit hard, as seasonal storms bring devastation to cane plantations.

Science is yet to grasp fully what causes El Niño, although its effects are now well understood. Every five or six years, trade winds that normally blow from East to West across the Pacific die down causing a huge area of warm water — roughly the size of Europe — to move from its normal resting place near Indonesia across the Pacific towards South America. This body of water is the source of the tropical monsoons that normally arrive so reliably every summer in South-East Asia. But after trekking 3,000 miles across the Pacific, the storms no longer hit the South-East Asian region, but continue eastwards to drench the normally parched lands on the West coast of South America. Such is the size of the system that El Niño has a knock-on effect on other weather patterns, preventing normal rain formation in Southern Africa and prompting fierce storms in the Caribbean.

El Niño is not new. Archaeological research has demonstrated that inhabitants of South America have been aware of its devastating impact for hundreds of years. The Mayans in ancient Peru even used human sacrifice in an attempt to appease the Gods they believed were bringing the civilisation-threatening floods and mud slides. But the weather system does seem to have become more frequent and intensified in recent decades. Meteorolo-



Niño effects: Clockwise from top — drought brings fire to the eastern highlands of Papua New Guinea and dries a lake in a suburb of Jakarta, Indonesia; hammerhead sharks caught off Lima, Peru, brought there by the arrival of the warm water; and a fire on Borneo Island, Indonesia

gists are predicting that this year's El Niño could prove to be the worst recorded.

In California, businesses are cashing in on El Niño angst. Tourist authorities in central California are offering half-price rooms for the winter season to ensure holidaymakers are not put off by the expected storms. A barbecue retailer has diversified into household fire tools, while hardware stores are selling "storm preparation kits", including sandbags and roof repairs. Surf shops are cashing in because high seas have meant an unusually large number of board breakages.

Even the UK, which the Met Office believes is one of the few places where El Niño has little impact in weather terms, could suffer. Food prices have already clocked up in recent months, increasing the rate of inflation, because of a poor autumn harvest. El Niño is likely to cause some core imported food prices to rise further. A weather system deep in the Pacific could make the Bank of England's task in meeting inflation just that little bit more difficult.

However, for the countries in the front line — mainly developing countries heavily dependent on agriculture — El Niño is not merely an inflationary distraction but potentially devastating, socially and economically.

The last major occurrence in 1982-83 caused an estimated \$9 billion of damage, cutting Peru's GDP by around 5 per cent. Peruvian fishermen, who rely on the abundant anchovy haul for survival, find stocks collapse because anchovies feed off the algae that only flourishes in colder water. Peru has already downgraded its estimate of GDP for next year by about 2 per cent, but some economists fear the consequences could be much worse.

On the other side of the Pacific it is drought that hits wheat crops in Australia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, while cocoa and coffee harvests are suffering in tropical regions. In Papua New Guinea, the dry season has been so severe this year that not only are there reports of

starvation in the isolated highland region but the copper industry has been brought to a standstill because the rivers used to transport the metal have dried. The Philippines has instituted water rationing and is preparing to redirect rice stocks to prevent famine.

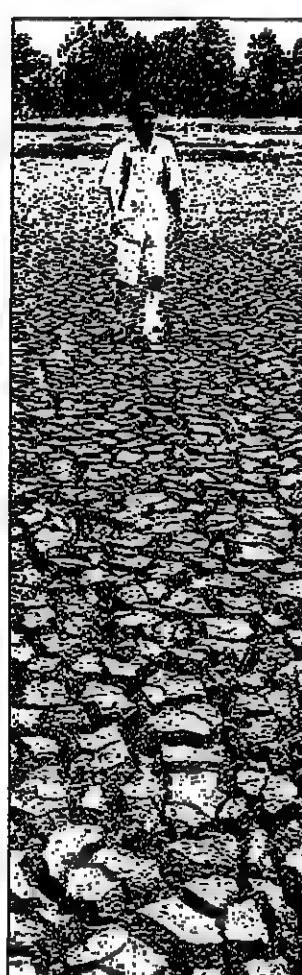
In Indonesia, the Government has given warning that many small coffee producers, already struggling with high interest rates caused by the country's financial crisis, could go under if sustained rains do not arrive soon to prevent the collapse of this year's harvest. Some analysts are predicting a 40 per cent fall in the Indonesian robusta coffee crop, which will hit export earnings, bringing further pressure to bear on the currency and finances.

Inevitably, El Niño wreaks havoc on commodity markets. For commodity brokers, a transitory knowledge of global weather forecasts becomes essential. Analysts are predicting a total drop of about 20 per cent in the sugar crop, while other staple commodities such as coffee and cocoa are also under threat.

But few are panicking. Angela Mutton, sugar market analyst at ED&F Man, commodity brokers, said: "A few months ago everyone was terribly excited, with crops widely expected to fail. But although some price increases are factored into the futures market, there has not yet been a huge impact on the market."

A good coffee crop in Vietnam and East Africa has also taken the sting out of coffee prices so far, while cocoa prices have held reasonably steady thanks to good yields in West Africa. World supplies of staples such as grain and rice have also been largely unaffected because of good harvests in America and Europe.

The message from the commodity markets is that El Niño is not all bad news. The US mid-west and East Coast tend to enjoy better weather, cutting fuel requirements and ensuring a bumper wheat crop. East Africa can also enjoy some improved harvests because of wetter than normal weather, while in other areas, such as the eastern coast of



South America, the impact is usually mixed. Improved monitoring of the weather system has also helped to ensure that major commodity market players are unlikely to be caught short by a sudden squeeze in the market.

Don Smith, economist at HSBC, believes that in economic terms much of the hype surrounding El Niño has been overdone. He argues that during the 1982-83 El Niño the real surge in commodity prices was caused by a rise in global demand, not the weather. Mr Smith forecasts that commodity prices as a whole will remain reasonably flat because of weakness in the metal markets, although he anticipates that food commodity prices are likely to rise by about 15 per cent in sterling terms over the coming year.

For the UK at least, El Niño looks as though it will ultimately prove to be little more than an inflationary blip. But the fact that global commodity supplies look like weathering the storm will bring little solace to Peru, Indonesia and Zimbabwe, which are caught in El Niño's spiteful embrace.

Coal industry must dig itself out of its own problems

John Battle outlines the Government's approach to the future of British mining

From the outset, let me be plain: I have every intention of doing what I can to ensure deep-mined coal has a place in meeting our energy objectives. I am convinced the coal industry will continue to make a significant contribution to local communities and to the economy of the country.

But we have had to deal with the inheritance we had. The previous Tory Government decimated the coal industry. In 1979 there were 235,000 people employed in the deep-mined coal industry; now there are 10,000.

What is amazing is the spectacle of the Opposition calling for the Government to intervene when it was they who smashed it. Particularly amazing when compared with Michael Fallon's view in 1993 that the coal industry "should be run like a business and I wish we had handed it over to the great mining companies... It is all about going out and finding the cheapest source of power, not about employing people in mines".

When the last Government sold off the coal industry, they left it facing a cliff edge. They finally booted it by allowing all coal's major contracts to run out at the same time.

The botched job comes to a head next year when — as the industry has always known — these contracts come to an end and the privatised coal industry is out on its own in the market, negotiating with privatised power companies.

Nevertheless, the coal industry can succeed. It is now run by the private sector, and the dominant company is RJB Mining, run by Richard Budge. There are half a dozen other smaller operators. I am pleased at their success at achieving contracts with the generators in the face of competition from imported coal.

cern that RJB has misjudged the strength of its market position. There are signs that RJB has secured medium-term arrangements with two of the three major generators. However, if we are to believe the press, RJB has lost market share to other suppliers, and some rundown of its capacity may be unavoidable next year.

This would be a tragedy for the industry and for the country's loyal and committed workforce who stand to be the real losers here. These problems are for the company itself to resolve. Even at this stage, RJB could establish additional business for power station coal, in Germany and Spain or by additional sales within the UK.

The ball is in RJB's court. But the Government is doing all it can to help. First, we are working in Europe to stop the German and Spanish governments from giving their coal an unfair subsidy.

Secondly, I want to be sure that coal can compete on equal terms with other fuels for generating electricity in the UK. That's why I have demanded a review of the way electricity is bought and sold.

Thirdly, we are encouraging Stephen Littlechild, the man responsible for setting fair play in electricity, to ensure that generators cannot just close coal-powered stations without giving other companies the opportunity to take them on. This might encourage Mr Budge to secure a market for his coal by producing and selling electricity himself.

Fourthly, we are also encouraging Professor Littlechild to stop electricity companies passing on to consumers high gas costs under their old contracts.

Fifthly, we are cutting the unjustified advantage that nuclear power stations were given by the last Government.

Sixthly, we are also taking away the same advantage imported nuclear electricity from France was given.

Lastly, we are looking at ways to help coal to secure a long-term future — in which it meets its environmental challenges — by backing clean coal technology. Some £45 million will be spent this year.

Time and time again industry representatives tell me that they expect fairness, not favours. That's exactly what the Government wants, too. We will ensure the playing field is not tilted against coal. The rest is up to the industry to ensure that deep-mined coal in Britain has a future.

The author is Minister for Industry, Energy and Science

Brass tacks

SIR Bernard Ingham, former press secretary to Baroness Thatcher, knows nothing about finance and is the first to admit it. This made him the ideal candidate to launch the Money Management Council's Quality Mark at the Bank of England yesterday. The new kiemark will, it is optimistically claimed, encourage providers of financial services to speak clearly and truthfully.

Ingham told a crowd of council members at the Bank that he was not there for his financial expertise but for his "notoriety as a communica-

tor". You said it, Bernard. "I was just wheeled in to emphasise the importance of telling it like it is in four letter words — respectable ones that is," he said. Ingham, who has translated effortlessly from Mrs T's mouthpiece to an opinionated newspaper columnist, then went on to demonstrate just why he should not be trusted on financial matters. He listed all the blunders he had made in print. Not the least was a touching conviction that one pound equals one dollar.

BY A quirk of fate, Carphone Warehouse has flourished despite no longer selling carphones — rather as if Dixons traded as Crystal Set Stores or IBM as Difference Engines Inc. Charles Dunstone, the founder, is at last thinking of changing the name. "It's a historical problem," he tells me. "In France and Spain we trade under the name Phonhouse." Of course Dunstone's friend Ernest Saunders can always advise on names. His old company, Guinness, became Diageo today — assuming no last-minute reversion to sanity by its poor, befuddled management.

Thawed out

IS THE Institute of Directors coming in from the cold? More executives



than you can shake a stick at have flooded into Whitehall since the election, professing sometimes bewildering adherence to new Labour and packing task forces, working groups, and now embassies. But members of the IoD, the rather right-wing bosses' organisation, have never been included in all this rampant entrism.

This might have something to do with the intemperate public attack on Tony Blair by IoD director-general Tim Melville-Ross only days before the election. But the freeze looks like thawing. At the institute's annual dinner this week Education and Employment Secretary David Blunkett offered a place on his new taskforce on skills. Better still, the IoD has booked the Prince of Darkness himself, Peter Mandelson, the Minister

without Portfolio, for its annual shindig at the Albert Hall next April. But the IoD is hedging its bets by also booking Archie Norman.

SMALL world, casinos. Everywhere you turn, it's London Clubs this, London Clubs that. The Ritz Hotel is applying for a new gaming licence. London Clubs operates the hotel's casino but is off with the existing licence to new premises around the corner. So Aidan Barclay, son of reclusive Barclay twin David, is up before the Westminster gaming authorities and has pulled in a couple of gaming industry heavies to bolster his case. They are Sir Gordon Booth as chairman of Ritz Hotel Casino, his company, and Michael Seal as a director. Booth is a former chairman of London Clubs. Seal is managing director of Ellerman Investments, one of the Barclay holding companies — the same Ellerman that, as it happens, once held a 30 per cent stake in, oh yes, London Clubs. George Carman, the distinguished QC representing the Ritz and veteran of a thousand libel trials, once numbered among his clients, *er*, London Clubs. Oh, and London Clubs is one of two trade objectors to the Ritz's application.

King's ransom

STEPHEN KING, the American horror writer, is the literary equiva-

lent of McDonalds — identical product by the million, addictive and distinctly unappetising. King has switched publishers in the US to Simon & Schuster and taken them for a reported \$16 million for his new novel, a sum so far ahead of what it is likely to earn that it makes the recent Martin Amis deal look like vanity publishing. Tim Hely Hutchinson at Hodder Headline, UK publisher of 28 King novels (Carrie preserve us), claims to be of sterner stuff. He has just retained King in the UK and Commonwealth on a more responsible advance and royalty package, albeit for an undisclosed sum.

MARTIN WALLER



King: no desperation in his stand



ONE HOUR SERVICE FOR JAPANESE TRAVEL (including Japan Airlines)

"What's the best way to travel on the Internet?"

There's nothing pedestrian about LineOne. It gives you fast and easy access to the Internet, and the home page directs you straight to the subject you're interested in. If you want to explore the real world as well as the cyberworld, the Travel zone gives you valuable advice and information on where to stay. Check in soon.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210.

www.lineone.net

It's what you want to know

After you have tried LineOne a business team will call at 14.00 per month

National Grid investors to get £770m payout

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL GRID shareholders are to get a £770 million payout through a special dividend.

The large return of cash comes in spite of management's claims a year ago that price curbs imposed on it would cripple the company.

National Grid claims that the payout has been triggered by a slowdown in its international investment. It comes in spite of the company reporting a 23 per cent fall in pre-tax profits.

Last year, when Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, announced the new price caps, David Jones, chief executive, said that they were "ill-founded and un-

What the management said in 1996

When Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, announced the new price caps last year, David Jones, chief executive of the National Grid, said they were "ill-founded and un-

precedentedly harsh". Yesterday Stephen Box, finance director, denied that returning cash to shareholders was inconsistent with the Grid's position last year. He said: "This is about making the capital structure more efficient. It is not that we are producing very much cash."

The special dividend of 44.7p per share will take National Grid's borrowings to about 170 per cent of its

shareholder funds by the end of the year. This compares with a ratio of 70 per cent at the end of last year.

The payout will also be fuelled by £200 million that the company expects to realise from the part-flotation of Energis, the telecoms operation. Shares in Energis will begin trading next month with a value of between £815 million and £962 million. National Grid is to retain up to 75 per cent of Energis.

In the half year to September 30, Energis increased its turnover 61 per cent to £69.2 million.

The company said that it would continue to look for investment potential overseas, but that major opportunities were unlikely to present themselves for the next year or so. It has made substantial acquisitions overseas, including taking large stakes in transmission systems in Argentina.

National Grid said that it was tackling the new price controls, which cut pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30 to £226 million, from £292 million in the same period for 1996. David Jeffries, chairman, said: "Determined cost-cutting measures have been implemented to improve efficiency and to help offset the impact on jobs."

With the announcement of the price controls National Grid said it would have to cut jobs by 750 over four years. Yesterday it said it would have reached half that figure by the end of the year.

The interim dividend, payable on February 16, was lifted 8.5 per cent to 4.83p. Shareholders receiving the special dividend will be able to invest a proportion into a convertible bond issue, expected to be between £300 million and £500 million.



Safe as houses: John McCarthy is confident of making "significant progress" this year

McCarthy & Stone powers past City's predictions

By Paul Dorman

McCarthy & Stone, the sheltered housing company, stunned the City by reporting results that outstripped brokers' forecasts not just for the year just ended, but for 1998 and 1999 as well.

Pre-tax profits climbed from £11 million to £20.5 million on turnover 45 per cent ahead at £88.3 million. The consensus of City analysts' estimates for the year to August was only £15.5 million, and they were expecting only £18.3 million this year.

Helped by the strengthened housing market, McCarthy & Stone made good progress on nearly all its key indicators.

Unit sales improved 34 per cent to 1,218, and the average selling price increased 10 per cent to £70,000. The company was able to cut back on sales incentives and discounts, with part exchanges falling from 425 to 354.

Although land prices have increased, McCarthy & Stone said land costs as a proportion of selling cost remained steady. Its gross profit margin improved from 35 per cent to 39 per cent. The company even had success in planning appeals, persuading planning authorities that its developments should not have to

include an element of so-called affordable housing.

Matthew Thorne, finance director, said the company had seen "a modest slowdown" over the past three months, but completions, reservations and visitor levels are still running about 20 per cent ahead of last year. John McCarthy, chairman, said: "The board is extremely confident of its ability to demonstrate significant progress in the current financial year."

McCarthy & Stone plans to pay a final dividend of 2.34p on January 30, which will lift the total 30 per cent to 3p.

Stock Exchange fear for 'funny' Sets prices

THE Stock Exchange said yesterday that it is worried about misleading closing prices under Sets, its new electronic trading system. Many brokers are removing orders from the system before the end of trading instead of leaving them overnight. This means late deals — generally those sent through automatically as part of a "basket" of trades — may be struck at "funny" prices, since there is not enough liquidity. The Exchange is now encouraging brokers to leave orders overnight. It may also consider an earlier end to Sets trading each day.

Figures released yesterday show the average proportion of FTSE 100 bargains going through Sets is 35 per cent. By trade value, the average is 36 per cent. The Exchange said this exceeded expectations and may be an understatement. Average dealing spreads, nudging 1.3 per cent during the worst of October's volatility, have since settled down comfortably below 0.62 per cent, the pre-order book level. However, they average more than 1.75 per cent at the start of the day, settling after the first hour.

Inquiry into Trustor

BO SKARINDER, the Swedish state prosecutor, is travelling to London on a fact-finding mission regarding the alleged misappropriation of funds at Trustor, the investment company. Mr Skarinder hopes to question Lindsay Smallbone, the former president of Trustor, today, and Lord Moynie, the main shareholder of Trustor, tomorrow or Friday. Mr Skarinder noted that he had no authority to take firm action in the UK and that any request for legal proceedings would have to wait until he returned to Sweden.

Triplex Lloyd jumps

TRIPLEX LLOYD, the engineering group that lost its battle to take over William Cook earlier this year, announced a 22 per cent rise in interim profits yesterday. The group reported pre-tax profits of £7.6 million, on a turnover of £115.2 million (£98.4 million). Colin Cooke, chairman, said order books were buoyant and aerospace and gas turbine components have good medium-term prospects. The company could spend up to £30 million on acquisitions. The interim dividend rises 7 per cent to 2.67p.

Galliford acquires rival

GALLIFORD, the restructured housebuilding and construction group, has bought Midas Homes, its southwest rival, in a £4.6 million deal that aims to strengthen the company's housing division. The company will fund the deal by raising £2.5 million through the three-for-two placing of 13.3 million shares at 19p each, and by giving 7.9 million shares worth £1.5 million to the vendor. It will also issue loan notes. The offer price is subject to Midas achieving pre-tax profits of more than £1.6 million in the 17 months to June 1998.

Quadramatic advances

QUADRAMATIC, the company that hopes to make a fortune from manufacturing coin-handling equipment for the single European currency, yesterday reported an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year ended October 4, from £13 million to £14 million. The group said it successfully launched its coin-handling operations in Las Vegas during the year. Turnover was £73 million, up 16 per cent from £62 million. Earnings per share were 19.5p, up 5 per cent from 18.6p. A final dividend of 5.9p, up from 5.5p, will be paid on February 12.

Barkers gets £5.5m refit

HOUSE OF FRASER is to invest £5.5 million on a renovation of Barkers of Kensington, London. The store will close from January 3 with the exception of the cosmetics area. The fully refurbished store will re-open in April 1998, with 100,000 sq ft of selling space. The refit will be based on the design for House of Fraser's Nottingham store and will begin on November 29. John Coleman, chief executive, said: "We expect the new Barkers to create both a significant uplift in sales and new employment opportunities for London."

Courtaulds China deal

COURTAULDS has strengthened its coatings business in China with the start-up of two powder coatings plants. The plants will have enough capacity to provide potential sales of some £25 million, and are an extension of a 50/50 joint venture powder business with Chang Cheng Chemicals. The investment reflects the expanding powder coatings market in China, estimated to be growing by 15 per cent a year, which is driven by demand from foreign-invested manufacturing industries and domestic appliance manufacturers.

AIM Group shares dive

SHARES in AIM Group dived from 384p to 285p after the company said it would be "difficult" to achieve a profit in the current financial year because of an exceptional write-off over interior contracts for Saab, which may halt production of regional aircraft, and the absence of profit from its Seattle subsidiary. Doubts over future Saab work will result in a £3.65 million charge. However, AIM Group said that it was reasonable to anticipate a return to normal profitability in the next financial year.

Gucci buys Severin

GUCCI GROUP, the luxury goods maker, has bought the Severin Montres group of companies, its watch licensee for 23 years, in a cash transaction valuing the business at about \$150 million (\$89 million). Gucci is also to repurchase up to three million of the company's outstanding shares. Severin Montres, a major manufacturer and distributor, is based in Lengnau, Switzerland, and in 1996 earned \$188.2 million and had operating profits of \$42.8 million, after royalties paid to Gucci of \$24.3 million, according to Gucci.

Colonial plans UK expansion

By Marianne Curphey
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COLONIAL, the Australian life company which demutualised last year, is interested in acquiring life insurance and asset management companies to expand its distribution network in the UK.

The company has £4 billion worth of assets under management in the UK and confirmed yesterday that it would like to double its exposure by the turn of the century. Jaqui Bamford, head of legal and corporate affairs at Colonial, said: "We want to expand in the UK and become a top 20 provider of financial services in the UK."

Australia Mutual Provident (AMP), a fellow Australian life insurer, is in the process of demutualising and analysts expect shares in Colonial to rise as institutional investors increase their weightings in the sector.

Colonial said that its first dividend since demutualisation would exceed its pre-listing forecast and would be 7 cents per share. All shareholders registered at December 12 will be eligible. Colonial said shareholders will be able to exercise options to buy extra shares at the end of next month.

Severn Trent disappoints over payout

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVERN TRENT disappointed the City yesterday with the absence of a shareholder payout and with a lower than expected interim dividend.

The water company's shares fell 25½p to 934½p as it set out plans for a 10 per cent increase in its interim dividend to 11.5p on the back of a 1.3 per cent drop in pre-tax profits for the half year to September 30. Analysts had expected a buyback or special dividend and an interim payment of up to 12.2p.

Severn Trent also appeared to quash future hopes of a payback. Vic Cocker, chief executive, said: "There is a need for prudence in an uncertain regulatory environment." Alan Costin, finance director, said the balance sheet did not have a lot of headroom after the £309 million windfall tax.

The company's unregulated businesses saw profits before interest and tax rise 10.6 per cent to £18.8 million.

Overall pre-tax profits were £19.3 million against £197 million. The interim dividend is payable on April 6.

Consortium takes over Tecno

By Jason Nispe

CHARLES DUNSTONE, the founder of Carphone Warehouse, yesterday vowed to revitalise Tecno after leading a consortium, including Julian Richer and Luke Johnson, in a £4 million purchase of the camera chain from Era Group, the troubled retailer.

The trio will be equal partners along with David Ross, deputy managing director of Carphone Warehouse, in the deal, which substantially cuts Era's £11 million of debts.

Era can now concentrate on turning around the fortunes of Beattie's, its model store chain, which has been hit by falling profitability.

Mr Dunstone said that the appearance of new digital cameras gave a great opportunity for Tecno, introducing the skills that have made Carphone Warehouse and Richer Sounds a success.



Charles Dunstone's deal pays Era £4 million for Tecno

The new consortium plans to start a part exchange service at Tecno, selling second-

hand cameras through the Fox Talbot chain, which is part of the business.

The Carphone Warehouse formula, offering advice on mobile phones as well as selling them, has led to a

rapid expansion of the chain. By the end of this year Mr Dunstone aims to have 130 stores in the UK, as well as operations in France and Spain. There are no plans to float the business as yet.

"I'm not sure we would know how to operate in the public arena," said Mr Dunstone, who has been advised by Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chief.

Era has been saved from possible collapse by a management team backed by Postern, the corporate recovery experts headed by Archie Coulson. Mr Coulson was surprised yesterday at the announcement by Mr Dunstone's group. "I thought we were still at the position of arm wrestling over the final points," said Mr Coulson.

THE TIMES

EVERY WEEKDAY, THE BIG PICTURE.

CHANGING TIMES

WEEKEND CALL
358
TRADE
2400 PRIVATE

BANKSIDE ESTATE

THE MA

WILSON & CO. LTD.
 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000

WILSON & CO. LTD.
 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754,

[illegible]

Brook's latest masterstroke: play it straight

The great interpreter tells Andy Lavender why his new staging of Beckett's *Oh Les Beaux Jours* sticks faithfully to the original

Think of the Peter Brook of the past decade and a curious impresario-provocateur comes to mind: a white-haired figure in a round-neck jumper, shaping some of the most beguiling theatre shows in recent memory. There was *The Mahabharata* in 1985, Brook's nine-hour version of the Indian epic. There was *The Man Who*, a show developed from Oliver Sacks's writings about people with neurological disorders, fashioned by Brook and his company into a series of vignettes whose slips and slides evoked minds in disorder. Then there was *Qui Est La*, a grand endeavour in which the actors discussed the ideas of some of the major figures of world theatre while presenting possible stagings of scenes from *Hamlet*.

What a surprise, in the face of such lively version-making, to see that Brook's latest offering is a straightforward production of someone else's play. More surprising still is that the play is *Oh Les Beaux Jours*, the French version of *Happy Days*, by Samuel Beckett — a writer not known for encouraging free interpretation. "The marvellous thing is that Beckett doesn't tolerate one changing anything from his intentions," Brook says. "The pleasure was to say that I'll approach it this way, which I've never done with any play, and I've followed him to the letter."

As he suggests, following anything to the letter has never been Brook's way. His unorthodoxy has long established him — an Englishman at the head of a multi-ethnic group of actors in Paris — as one of the most influential figures in European theatre. "To keep one's own sense of proportion one must go back constantly, feed oneself by putting oneself in touch with the really great works," he says.

Happy Days wouldn't top that particular list for many people. The play is more static than *Waiting for Godot* and *Endgame*. Beckett's most celebrated plays, although it is pivotal in his dramaturgy, marking the point where he developed single images of mordant intensity. Its main character, Winnie, buried up to her waist and then her neck in a mound of earth, talks incessantly to

herself and her nearly silent husband, shuffling around the dirt behind her. Brook's production was first staged in 1995 and comes to London's Riverside Studios as part of the French Theatre Season. Audiences should know the play in advance or be able to understand French, as it is presented without surtitles. Beckett wrote *Happy Days* in English in 1961, then prepared a French version whose nuances, Brook suggests, make it more than a direct translation.

I really don't want to go into the processes of taking myself seriously

"One of Beckett's extraordinary gifts was this sense of the quality of different languages," he says. "When he rewrote his play in French, at many points what in English is down-to-earth and slangy is turned into something more poetic in the French sense. The character of Winnie is subtly on a different social level. In England the best exponents have not been refined actresses but very tough actresses. It's not for nothing that the first great performer in France was Madeleine Renaud, who was the exact opposite. So although this is a very ordinary, silly chatterbox of a lady, in French it's as if she's from the provinces. She has aspirations to class and culture and there's the impression of a genteel background."

Winnie is played by Brook's wife, Naiaisha Parry. "My wife's a much greater purist than I am," he says. "And I'd get impatient with her in rehearsal and say, 'If you forget to turn your head now and turn it two lines later it doesn't make any difference.' She'd try it, and it's not as good."

Twenty years ago Brook suggested that there was nothing more positive than the drama of Beckett — a contrary statement given the playwright's liking for chronically afflicted characters who find that the world is grinding to a halt under their noses.

"I knew him as a friend," Brook explains, "and saw the Beckett that all his friends adored — this droll, life-loving man with generosity, humour and tolerance. Many times we've made the connection between *Oh Les Beaux Jours* and Greek tragedy, in the sense that tragedy leaves you up against the capacity of the human being to plunge into the deepest abysses of behaviour and despair, and yet this does not drive one to suicide but, on the contrary, awakens in one something extraordinarily positive."

He knew Beckett as a friend... Now 72, Brook has supped at the tables of some of the most significant theatre-makers of the century. Talking to him, the threads of inspiration and influence through the century seem suddenly more visible. He saw Stanislavsky's productions in repertory at the Moscow Art Theatre. He got on well with the visionary director and designer Edward Gordon Craig, met Brecht, knew the Polish director Jerzy Grotowski. He has argued that theatre can plumb "universal" truths in human experience, crossing cultural boundaries — a contentious view. But his own stagings are forged in the fire of the rehearsal room, their theatricality as striking as their simplicity. Is he conscious of placing himself in relation to a lineage of European theatre?

"No, I really don't want to be encouraged by a question like that to go into the processes of taking myself seriously," he says. "I do the work. I do here and there it. It's a monstrous thing to say to oneself, 'I have a place'."

Oh Les Beaux Jours is at the Riverside Studios (0181-741 2255) from tomorrow to Dec 6 and at the Tramway Theatre, Glasgow (0141-281 5511) Dec 10-12, sponsored by Citiroth. A retrospective of Peter Brook's films is at the French Institute (0171-635 2146), Nov 29-Dec 17



"The marvellous thing is that Beckett doesn't tolerate one changing his intentions," Peter Brook says

Snapshots of their fading dreams

HIDDEN in the small print on theatre tickets should be a warning that some flashes of theatrical insight are more painful than others, James Christopher writes. Occasionally, however, a writer will deliberately drill into an exposed nerve for the sheer hell of it.

So it is with Christophe Pellet's new play, the first in the Royal Court's New European Writers' season, and the raw nerve he picks is the intangible fear among thirty-somethings of lost opportunities and growing old. A dream team, assembled by director Mary Peate around Martin Crimp's crisp translation, turns Pellet's conversations over a metal café table into hugely stylish set pieces.

It is the night after a party. Antoine is nursing a hang-over; his best friend Pierre is thinking about his job inter-

view. Should Antoine sleep with Georgina Sowerby's mysterious Clarisse? Should Pierre snip a few years off his passport?

Simon Vincenzi and his lighting designer Chahine Yavroyan turn the Theatre Upstairs stage into a small cinema. A square black screen opens and closes, framing each scene like a movie still. Fergus O'Hare's addictive house music is injected, like a jolt of heroin, during the blackouts between scenes.

Another Saturday night snaps into focus. Like a blond, dyspeptic stork Paul Bettany's Antoine leaps on Clarisse in her bedroom. But love is short-lived. Clarisse's self-obsession proves to be an all-consuming interest on Sunday morning. A year of Sunday mornings and she still does not remember the colour of his eyes.

The silliness of Pellet's scenes contrasts strikingly with the subtle changes of power. Mathew Ryan's insidious Pierre swaps his leather jacket for a shiny suit. It goes with the new job in TV. Like a translocator, he lounges in an armchair listing the job prospects that go with his new (younger) self. Antoine cannot engage. He has become beached in his past.

Pierre arranges a seedy transaction between Antoine and a married man which is creepily evoked by the taking off and putting on of new shoes. You must pretend, insists Pierre, to be younger. It's the only thing that counts. It is Bettany's captivating performance as Antoine that screws the production into place. He fades spookily into the foreground, as if about to step out of screen. The sea slaps the beach, gulls screech overhead.

Mary Peate's production works laterally as well as literally. It is a magnificent piece of designer theatre that remains beautifully out of reach. Perhaps we should be wearing it rather than just watching it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Richard Briers and Geraldine McEwan are in brilliant form in Simon McBurney's revival of Ionesco's *The Chairs*

Nothing to live for and a lot to say

Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* has long been regarded as a — maybe, the — modern classic play. But while the little-known Irish expatriate was composing it in Paris in the late 1940s, an equally obscure Romanian exile was at work in the same city, creating a no less original black comedy that also involved two people's desperate determination to find significance for themselves in a desolate, post-diluvian world. Why, then, has Ionesco's *The Chairs* appeared on the English stage about one-fiftieth as often as *Godot*?

Theatre de Complicite's remarkable co-production with the Royal Court provides answers. Unlike Ionesco, Beckett

translated his own work from French into English, and the standard version of *The Chairs*, though serviceable, hasn't the snap and crackle that the dramatist Martin Crimp now gives it. Nor has the play previously attracted British directors of the calibre of Simon McBurney or leading performers as skilful as those he has now lured into the West End.

But the moment I saw Richard Briers and Geraldine McEwan peering at us through their window, I knew this revival would be special. That was confirmed when they reappeared on the Quay Brothers' set, a paley lit arc of ugly, jumbled grey doors outside which, to judge from the

The Chairs Duke of York's

distant howls and nearby splashes, was a moat beyond which lurked either wolves or the damned. He was a glazed, stupidly grinning old sayer who spoke in fake-jawed barks; she an upside-down turnip with white wisps sprouting from his withered top, skittering about in flowery overalls, mewling and borking and sounding half-bonkers.

They are a wonderfully funny duo, but not only funny. The Old Man and Woman, as they are badly called, are married, in their nineties, and as disappointed with their

wasted lives as Beckett's similarly aged, comparably clownish tramps. But tonight they won't just retell the stories with which they have bored each other for 70 years. Tonight the Old Woman will help the man she loves and despises give his "message" to humanity. So on comes wonky chair after wonky chair, 50 in all, while in pour invisible guests, culminating in the glare of brass and glare of light that announces the arrival of an unseen emperor.

A crazed daydream, or a metaphor for the predicament of the writer, who yearns for attention and ends up communicating nothing to anyone? Both, and more. The evening ends with imagery as

unsettling as the trousers that fall to the floor as Beckett's Esdras takes off his belt to hang himself. Briers's chosen spokesman arrives, smirking and preening himself, and turns out to be a deaf-mute whose "message" to the empty chairs is garbled nonsense about God scrawled on a blackboard.

In 1952, when it was first staged, *The Chairs* addressed a world still reeling at the Holocaust and the Bomb. McBurney suggests that the play touches on the more scattered anxieties of our own day. That is a rediscovery of real importance.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A tougher act to follow

After eight years of working together, Forced Entertainment's reputation skyrocketed with two shows in the early 1990s, *Emanuel Enchanted* and *Club of No Regrets*. Both presented an extraordinary mixture of naivety and violence set in another, more beautiful world. Beyond the sweetness was a very true understanding of urban hope and disappointment, and the hidden impact of culture. In particular they understood how film affected life: the way it changed romantic and sexual behaviour, the experience of film-like moments and the way it produced a whole new load of very 20th-century archetypes.

As a result, Forced Entertainment must be one of Britain's most plagiarised theatre companies. From Scotland to North Africa I have watched lookalike shows saturated with Forced Entertainment legions: fake guns, stage booze, scared-eyed girls and shabby cardboard signs saying things like "Gay Cop" or "Teenage Runaway". Ironically, when the company lost its funding groups which amounted to little more than tribute bands continued to pull

Enchanted

the action, what little there is of it, is set in a rundown nightclub in some dead end place, too late at night. There has been an overload of pleasures: the slow hipsway of the slow-dance music has been taken right down to 10rpm. The acts have been knocking back booze all night and are beyond embarrassment, beyond pretending that they actually enjoy entertaining the late-night club crowd. Even nakedness loses its sexuality, to become another symptom of a soiled lifestyle that is way past caring.

Forced Entertainment have often played games with curtains and notions of theatricality: in *Pleasure* the curtain suddenly takes on the feel of a hospital screen. The audience is watching something that it shouldn't really see: sex, death or humiliation. At its most cheeky and disturbing, *Pleasure* shows people right at the limits of their vulnerability.

In one scene a drunken man, naked except for a pantomime horse's head and trousers slumped round his ankles, drags himself painfully across the stage on his stomach. The other actors ignore him, one even reads a

newspaper, as he tries to pull the curtains shut and conceal himself. Later, when a dancer is shot, the MC asks repeatedly for the curtains to be closed, but nobody will do it.

Pleasure looks deep at ideas of watching and being watched. The nightclub performers are there for our pleasure but, because they're not performing, they show too much. The audience is forced into a position of voyeurism and, like traffic crawling past the scene of a car crash, the more things goes wrong the stronger the compulsion to keep watching.

The pace is relentlessly sluggish and the dialogue sparse: there is no real change of state by the end of the show. Tim Etchells, the director, expects only about half the audience to accept the show and expressed surprise that so few people walked out.

Seen in the context of Forced Entertainment's work to date, *Pleasure* is just the next part of their grand procession of theatre, which is sometimes ugly, sometimes beautiful. After the confessional charm and winsome delivery of the past four shows, *Pleasure* is a shock, but one which will possibly send the company off in a new direction and make them, for the time being, a little less easy to imitate.

HETTIE JUDAH

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

RUPERT GOOLD

Age: 25. Profession: A precociously talented theatre director, nicknamed "Scheme Boy" for the number of Young Director Training Schemes he has accumulated in the two years since leaving Trinity College, Cambridge (with a First, of course). These include the 1995 Carlton/Donmar Warehouse Trainee Directorship under Sam Mendes and the 1996 Regional Theatre Young Directors' Scheme at Salisbury Playhouse under Jonathan



Church. Previous winners

Fame is the spur? No, in fact. "It was the best way to meet girls at school." Present project: Directing his own adaptation of the Bridwell Theatre of Graham Greene's *The End of the Affair*. "It's been my theatrical love affair for two years."

Greatest challenge? Justin Butcher and Caroline Faber, who star in the play, were at school with Goold. "It's hard to direct people who remember you in your school blazer."

First professional show: John Godber's *Bouncers* at the Salisbury Playhouse Studio last year. "We turned it into an installation piece. We stood outside pubs at closing time, recorded drunks, and mixed their vox pops with music."

Big splash in '97: Giles Havergal's adaptation of *Travels With My Aunt*. "It was my first main house show at Salisbury." But this pales in comparison to his subsequent production of *Henry V* with a cast of 90. "The Battle of Agincourt was amazing."

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

THEATRE TICKETS

admit one

"Can I get them without a song and dance?"

LineOne not only tells you what's on and where it's at, it also tells you how to get there, and how it reviewed. LineOne even allows you to buy tickets on-line. In fact you can arrange the whole evening out from the comfort of your home computer.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210.

www.LineOne.net

It's what you want to know

New blood, and a little bloodletting

Simon Latt

Tales of the utterly unexpected

What sad, grey lives professional boozers must lead. There were one or two dutifully in attendance at the first night of the Royal Opera's new *Barber of Seville* on Monday, hurling their unattractive ululations at the production team and every so often looking round sheepishly to check that they were being noticed — as one of them had commandeered a stage box there was little chance of that not happening. What holes are there in these people's lives that make them reject the unexpected on principle? Not that they had it all their own way; cheers soon overwhelmed them.

Admittedly it had taken the



Game for lots of laughs but getting boos: Roberto Frontali (Figaro), Carmen Oprisanu (Rosina), Donald Maxwell (Bartolo) and Paul Austin Kelly (Count Almaviva)

audience a little time to tune in. Early on there were moments of stunned silence where one might have expected applause, but by the first-act finale enough people had got the message for the rest of the performance to be greeted with gales of well-earned laughter.

The *Barber* is a farce, the only full-length farce that Rossini composed. The designer-director Nigel Lowery and his co-director and choreographer Amir Hosseinpour treat it as such, adding the element of surrealism to spice it all up. Many of the jokes depend on surprise, and it would do no one any service to describe them; it is enough to say that the curtain rises on a Florentino who is a knife-wielding thug in a grubby vest, and serenaders who mug Almaviva rather than thank him.

There are extended passages of inspired comic direction — the first-act finale, launched by the officer accidentally shooting one of the doves that decorate the set, with its policemen turning into music-hall burglars, glove-puppets popping out of unexpected places, a Ring-style wall of fire (one of several permissible in-jokes), the whole set disintegrating, all capped by the intervention of — no, go and see for yourself. It left me breathless with laughter, and was plainly inspired by the lunacy of the music.

There are two classic comic performances. Sergei Aleksashkin (Basilio) is blessed with the moun- tain features of the traditional Russian clown. He makes you laugh before he has done a thing, and so does his costume of evening tails, brown boots and no socks. His flying contribution to the second-act quintet was another episode: "I shall treasure all my life. And he sings well. Roberto Frontali's alert, deadpan Figaro is another brilliant characterisation, roundly if a little unyieldingly sung.

Which leads to my only doubt about the evening, the conducting

of Antonello Allemandi. It's all strict tempo and briskly business-like, but even in the context of farce Rossini filled his score with love and wit, commodities in short supply on the musical front. And the briskness does tempt everyone to sing too loudly, especially the relentlessly fortissimo Bartolo of Donald Maxwell.

The Romanian mezzo Carmen Oprisanu was a warm-toned, amiably agile Rosina; I am not sure whether her air of general bewilderment, as though she had somehow strayed into the wrong production, was intentional or not. Paul Austin Kelly sang Almaviva as well as most can nowadays, and kept his comic end up with Frontali and Aleksashkin. I can't remember when I last laughed so much, and that's what Rossini wanted.

RODNEY MILNES

A night of contrast for a masterpiece

THIS was an evening of British amateurism at its best and at its worst. At its best in the favour of the contribution of the Berkshire County Youth Orchestra, at its worst — among many other things — in some of the third-rate music it was required to play, Rodney Milnes writes.

The main purpose of Sunday's concert was the British premiere of Benjamin Fleischman's one-act opera *Rothschild's Violin*, presented by the Jewish Music Heritage Trust and Thameside Opera, a thoroughly worthy undertaking, at least in principle.

To everyone's surprise, this was preceded by an unadvertised first half lasting an hour and a quarter, much of it taken up with shifting

chairs and music stands, during which times the auditorium lights remained firmly doused so that no one knew where they were or what to expect.

The only substantial music was Shostakovich's String Quartet Op 110, inevitably diminished by being given in the arrangement for string orchestra by Rudolf Barshai. Seldom has an interval been awaited more eagerly.

Fleishman joined Shostakovich's composition class in 1937. On Hitler's invasion of Russia he volunteered for military service,

and was killed near Leningrad in 1941, having orchestrated only the central section of *Rothschild's Violin*; Shostakovich completed his pupil's work out of admiration.

It was first staged in 1968 and, given its Jewish subject matter, immediately banned; only in the present decade has it emerged into the international light.

Even on this showing, it is plainly a little masterpiece — the qualification "little" occasioned by its 40-minute length and nothing else.

The plot is taken from Chekhov, set in a *shetl*, and concerned with the violin-playing coffin-maker Jakob Ivanov and members of the town band. The performance was sung in Russian, and the programme synopsis was wholly inadequate when not actually misleading: needless to say the auditorium lights were left full up, despite the fact that the opera was semi-staged and in costume, though Jeremy White, the protagonist, carried a crib throughout. Well, yes, it's a long role but — words had better fail me.

Still, one could marvel at the rich vein of melody running through the 40 minutes, the deftness of the word-setting, the brilliance of the instrumentation by both composers. Fleischman's iron control of fluid dramaturgy and overall pace, and mourn the premature loss of a major talent. And long for a professional performance under altogether happier circumstances.

New blood, and a little bloodletting

Decca has staved off disaster and is remaking itself as the top opera label. Simon Tait finds out how

Last week in London the president of Decca, Roger Lewis, signed one of the most precious talents in opera, Cecilia Bartoli, for a new five-year contract. That was an important moment for Lewis, a milestone on his journey towards making Decca, close to disaster a year ago, the opera label. Bartoli and other young stars, such as the German baritone Matthias Goerne (signed in the summer), are Decca's future. By the time she finishes this contract, Bartoli will have completed 20 years with Decca and still be under 40. But while the champagne flowed at the Ritz, the blood on Decca's Chiswick HQ was barely dry.

Since he was poached from EMI last January Lewis has recontracted other important opera names, such as Riccardo Chailly, chief conductor of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, to sit alongside the biggest name of them all, Pavarotti. Indeed, one of Lewis's first acts in January was to offer Sir Georg Solti a lifetime contract. "His contract was due to expire in October, and it would have been churlish to have offered our most important musician anything less, after he had stuck with us for 50 years," Lewis says.

But even while he was signing up some performers,

Lewis was wielding the axe elsewhere in the guinea-fennel British record company. "It has been tough," he says. "It has been brutal and it's been bloody, but we had to go forward sensibly if we were to have a future."

Pretty well everything has been at least halved. Decca's staff is down from 120 to 60; its recording list down from 100 to 50. And some performers have been ditched. The fine American violinist Joshua Bell has gone, his contract allowed to lapse, and more are being let go. The number of artists on contract has slumped from 40 to 16.

Lewis's appointment by the parent company, PolyGram, was a surprise. A music graduate from Nottingham, he worked as a musician before launching himself into radio producer/presenter at Radio 1, then producer for Capital Radio for one, Radio 1 producer for two, and suddenly head of music at Radio 1. Then he went to EMI as director of the classical division, before heading the EMI Premier Label.

His mission now, he says, is not just to ensure Decca's future but to lead the classical-music recording industry back from the brink, to cease the "dumbing down" process of producing celebrity recordings, "mood" compilations and the general outpouring of



Roger Lewis with a galaxy of his Decca star signings

what is becoming known merely as "product". "A few years ago the recording studio was a temple of music-making, and it held the opportunity for artists to achieve immortality. They never entered unless they had something important to say about the music."

Then along came the CD, and an inundation of new-tech recordings. Artists and companies got greedy. "It enabled them to dig deep into their vaults for reissues. But you can't create great art by the yard. There was too much for the aficionados."

While there were still imports of international artists who have something major to say. There will be more signings. And with Solti gone, there are no great maestros any more. He leaves a void we have to find a way of filling.

Some good has come out of the turmoil of the past few years. "The recording industry is encouraging great artists to explore the rep in greater breadth and depth, whereas artists had been reluctant to go beyond the known works in the recording studio," Lewis claims. "There has been a hunger for expanding, so that you get not only the traditional repertoire but the lesser known work."

"Decca's future is to select a group of international artists who have something major to say. There will be more signings. And with Solti gone, there are no great maestros any more. He leaves a void we have to find a way of filling."

CONCERTS: Maxwell Davies premiere; touring Czech players; musical wit

Suffering for art

THE Barbican's next weekend festival of Max. Britten and Tippett, presented by the City of London Sinfonia and Richard Hickox, was crowned by the European premiere of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's oratorio *Job*. A substantial new choral piece is something of a rarity these days. But the University of British Columbia, which commissioned the work (*Job* was first performed in Vancouver in May), must have had a shrewd suspicion that, after *Taverner* and *The Martyrdom of St Magnus*, the much post-apocalyptic *Job* might well be Maxwell's man.

Through his own creative struggle, the composer has responded with a sober triptych whose formidable structure and austere language fuse to explore with bleak yet moving dignity this archetype of human suffering. Nothing is quite as it seems. Satan can speak through the voices of soprano and mezzo, or tenor and baritone, and does so with restraint. The Lord, sung by the chorus, speaks in a frenzy of brass and wind. Job can speak himself through all four voices as if his suffering were too all-pervasive to be contained in one.

This makes for an initially disconcerting, then increasingly potent, sense of abstraction. Davies's impassioned arioso writing, composed spe-



cifically for the Canadian lyric baritone Kevin McMillan, movingly refocuses the individual within the universal.

The musical language grows steadily, almost imperceptibly, out of the opening plainchant-like narration. It becomes transformed into astringent yet lyrical string counterpoint, pungent woodwind dialogue, pitched percussion. And in the human voice — whether it be the BBC Singers or the other fine soloists, Catherine Pierard, Catherine Wyn-Rogers and Mark Padmore — it becomes a sombre, syllabic sequence of word-carvings.

A central climax is reached as the chorus whispers, then peal out those qualities which were Job's glory and his downfall: "Majesty, courage, wisdom, silence." And in their final apotheosis, those pounding syllables hammer out the Almighty's succession of rhetorical questions. As the chorus whispers "All things are touched with colour. The whole world is changed," the freshness and stature of Maxwell Davies's response to Job's final, wonder-filled vision is realised and affirmed.

HILARY FINCH

Distant Prague

"THE listener can sense the fragrance and the gentle beauty of Prague and feel the landscape of the great city and the flow of the river Vltava." That, surely, would be achievement enough for any orchestra from the Czech Republic, let alone one founded only four years ago. But there's more. "This," the programme claims, "is the sound which Dvořák intended for his compositions."

The Czech National Symphony Orchestra is a very competent ensemble with attractively flexible if not exactly luxurious strings, accurate tuning and a good overall balance. The sound is clearly not, on the other hand, the kind of thing Dvořák had in mind — instruments, techniques and priorities have changed over the past hundred years. And it is extremely doubtful that anyone in Symphony Hall, or in any of the 16 other places on the orchestra's tour of Britain and Ireland, would have experienced visual or olfactory hallucinations associated with Prague. Indeed, having played Smetana's *Vltava* eight times in the 12 concerts on the way to Symphony Hall, the orchestra seemed to have no particularly vivid image of it either.

In general, however, the Birmingham stage of the tour was something of a refuge for the Czech musicians. They

were staying in the one place for four days and they were playing a different repertoire in a series of three concerts billed as a "Czech Festival". In the absence of their chief conductor, Paul Freeman, they were working with Libor Pešek, and on this occasion they had the opportunity to sense the fragrance of Birmingham by joining with the CBSO Chorus in a major choral work. The Dvořák *Te Deum* was the best part of the concert. Pešek acknowledged its concise construction in an interpretation as dynamic as it was economical and secured a wide variety in colour from the chorus and his soloists, Susan Bullock and Paul Whelan.

Regret that there was not more of an audience for the *Te Deum* was tempered by relief that there were not so many to be disappointed by. It was a disappointment, by the way, that the account of Dvořák's *Violin Concerto*, Unattractive in sound, insecure in intonation, charmless in phrasing, it was a performance to cause one to question yet again the quality-control of the agency which manages these orchestral tours on behalf of the halls that pay for them.

GERALD LARNER

Frivolous Bliss

THIS particularly frivolous programme, but that in no way detracted from the enjoyment of it. The Bliss pieces heard in the first half were clearly influenced by Stravinsky and Ravel, and set him on a parallel course to that of Poulenc and other members of Les Six. I confess to finding the young Bliss's strictures on Germanic music — "at the same time ponderous and trivial" — a little rich coming from a novice bent on somewhat superficial entertainment. His *Conversations* is worth the occasional outing,



but is scarcely the antithesis of "triviality".

His *Madam Noy* and *The Women of Yueh*, the former a setting of nonsense verse, the latter of Chinese poems, are both economically scored and were delivered with assurance by Rosemary Hardy, standing in for Rosa Mannion at short notice. Constant Lambert's di-

version *Mr Bear Squash-you-all Flat*, performed here by reciter and ensemble, is for a student work an impressive score, even if the impression is one of skill rather than depth.

Eleanor Bron was a delightful reciter, and brought her brand of knowing charm also to *Façaide*, Richard Stilgoss tossed off the tongue-twisting patter songs with virtuosity. The Nash Ensemble under Martyn Brabbins were vigorous in attack, clean and precise in ensemble, lacking the languorous touch in some numbers perhaps, but otherwise faultless.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Court of Appeal

Limit to categories of malicious prosecution

Gregory v Portsmouth City Council
Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Robert Walker
[Judgment November 5]

The tort of malicious prosecution probably did not extend beyond the already established categories of most but not all criminal proceedings, and it definitely did not include disciplinary proceedings instituted by a local authority against one of its councillors.

The Court of Appeal stated by a majority (Lord Justice Schiemann dissenting) dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Terence Raymond Gregory, from the decision of Mr Justice Tudor Evans dated May 27, 1993 striking out his claim for damages for malicious prosecution against the defendants, Portsmouth City Council.

In 1983 the plaintiff was elected a Conservative member of Portsmouth City Council. In 1988 the administrative subcommittee of the council's policy and resources committee investigated allegations that the plaintiff, among other councillors, had acted in breach of the previous *National Code of Local Government Conduct* (DoE Circular 94/75) (now annexed to DoE Circular 8/90 issued under section 31(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989),

including an allegation that the plaintiff and two other councillors had abused their positions as councillors by using inside knowledge to buy property cheaply and then to sell it at a profit.

The subcommittee found some of the allegations to be proved and recommended that the plaintiff be removed from the various committees of which he was a member. The council then appointed a special committee to approve, reject, vary or amend the recommendations of the subcommittee.

The special committee found a number of breaches of the code proved and ordered that the plaintiff be removed from all his council offices and the committees of which he was a member.

On the plaintiff's application for judicial review the Divisional Court (*R v Portsmouth City Council, Ex parte Gregory*) [The Times March 12, 1990; [1990] 2 Admin LR 681] held that the subcommittee was acting ultra vires when it made its findings and recommendations, and that the proceedings before the special committee were vitiated from the outset because the committee was convened on the basis that the recommendations of the subcommittee were lawful, when it was not.

Mr Richard Lissack, QC, for the

plaintiff; Mr John Cavanagh for the council.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the question raised by the appeal concerned the scope of the common law tort of malicious prosecution. In particular, whether such an action could arise out of disciplinary proceedings instituted by a local authority against one of its councillors.

The only types of proceedings which hitherto had been clearly established on the authorities to ground claims for malicious prosecution were first, most but not all criminal proceedings, and second, civil insolvency proceedings, that is, the malicious presentation of petitions whether for winding up or for bankruptcy.

The plaintiff submitted that there could be no basis in logic or principle for restricting the tort so narrowly that Mr Cavanagh's central argument for the council was that the outer limits of the tort were necessarily fixed by reference to the principles respectively of abuse of process and of immunity from suit for anything said in court. Because, he submitted, the concept of abuse of process could apply only to proceedings in a court of law, and because immunity from suit was lost in such circumstances, the tort of malicious prosecution must be similarly confined.

His Lordship acknowledged that there was at best an imperfect logic in confining the tort to the already established categories of proceedings. But to extend its operation as far as would be necessary to encompass the plaintiff's claim, that is, to the proceedings even of tribunals exercising functions equivalent to those of established courts and to which, therefore, the doctrine of absolute privilege applied, would extend the tort well beyond anything suggested by any of the decided cases in the field.

Indeed, not merely did the authorities provide no support for the view that malicious prosecution extended that far, but the language used in many of the judgments suggested an altogether narrower scope. Time and again the cases referred to "suing the law in motion" and to "legal proceedings", by which was meant apparently proceedings in courts of law.

Although Mr Lissack suggested that the council's committees were clothed with judicial authority to decide the allegations brought against the plaintiff and then to discipline him, his Lordship disagreed.

Those committees were, in his Lordship's judgment, not discharging no more than an administrative function, albeit under a duty to act fairly and could

not possibly be regarded as a judicial authority.

In summary, his Lordship had reached the conclusion that the tort of malicious prosecution probably did not extend beyond the already established categories of civil and criminal proceedings, and certainly not as far as the proceedings of bodies like the committees of the Council authority who were not merely not courts of law but were not even tribunals exercising functions equivalent to courts.

One could perhaps see a public policy argument for extending the tort to embrace proceedings in the latter, covered as they were by absolute immunity. But his Lordship was by no means persuaded even of that, let alone of the desirability of a further extension still to cover the present case.

The tort had certain curious features, particularly in the civil sphere, even as it presently operated and it might be doubted whether the suit those years in court should need creatively to proposals for its extension in any way whatever.

Lord Justice Schiemann delivered a dissenting judgment and Lord Justice Robert Walker delivered a judgment agreeing with Lord Justice Simon Brown.

Solicitors: Wilkinson & Co, Southsea; Mr Barry S. Smith, Portsmouth.

Ouanes v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery
[Judgment November 7]

The *ius cogens* principle was an aid to construction of the phrase "membership of a particular social group" in article 1A(2) of the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) and (1967) (Cmd 3906) for the purpose of determining whether an applicant for asylum had established refugee status.

The characteristic which defined the social group had to be one which the members should not be required to change because it was so fundamental to their individual identities or conscience. Accordingly, people linked only by a common employment, such as Algerian government employees, would not ordinarily constitute members of a particular social group within the meaning of article 1A(2).

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Home Department against the decision of an immigration appeal tribunal on November 25, 1995 that the applicant, Hafsa Ouanes, qualified for asylum because she was a member of a particular social group, namely, Algerian government employees.

The appeal tribunal had reversed a decision of a special adjudicator upholding the secretary of state's decision that the applicant did not qualify for asylum.

Article 1A of the Convention provides: "The term 'refugee' shall apply to any person who . . . (2) owing to well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country . . ."

Mr Ian Burnett for the secretary of state; Mr Charles Bloomer for the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that

the applicant was an Algerian citizen who in 1942 was employed by the Algerian Ministry of Health as a midwife. In November 1994 she came to the United Kingdom for a holiday and in January 1995 she submitted an application for asylum.

The appeal tribunal had in effect found that the applicant was a member of a particular social group, within the meaning of article 1A(2), defined by reference to the duties which the members had to perform on behalf of their employer.

One of those duties, and one essential to continued employment as a midwife, was to provide advice on contraception. The well founded fear of persecution arose because fundamentalists were opposed to that duty being performed and the authorities were unable to provide protection for her.

Mr Burnett submitted that the expression "particular social group" did not cover a group of employees sharing a common employer or a common employment or both in combination.

He relied on propositions (1) and (2) in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department v Sivasubramanian* [1996] Imm AR 28, not disputed in *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Shah*, [The Times October 13, 1997].

Sivasubramanian proposition (3) stated that the Convention reasons (race, religion, nationality and political opinion) reflected a civil or political status and that "membership of a particular social group" should be interpreted *ius cogens*.

After consideration in *Quintana v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [1997] Imm AR 227, proposition (3) was reformulated in *Shah's* case.

But the point at issue in *Shah's* case was the degree of cohesiveness required for a particular social group to exist. In the present case the members of the group claimed to exist did have obvious links and common interests and the issue was a different one, namely, whether those common links of employment and interest were the type of links which constituted them as a particular social group within article 1A(2).

Mr Fidler submitted that the housing benefit form was a document used to adjudicate or determine whether a claimant was entitled to housing benefit but not to make any calculation of housing benefit and was not a document used for accounting purposes.

However, evidence given by an officer of Redbridge London Borough showed that the completed housing benefit form in reality contained the only information

used to calculate housing benefit and was therefore a document used for accounting purposes.

His Lordship referred to *Attorney-General v Reference* (No 1 of 1980) [1981] 1 WLR 34, 38 in which the Court of Appeal considered whether a dishonestly completed personal loan proposal form was a document "required for any accounting purpose" and the words of Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice:

"It does not seem to us that the moment at which any duty to account arose had any relevance to the question of whether the document was or was not required for an accounting purpose."

That was precisely the facts of the present case.

Mr Justice Smith agreed.

Solicitors: Stephen Fidler & Co, Crown Prosecution Service, Stratford.

Characteristics defining social groups for asylum

While *Sivasubramanian* proposition (3) might have stated too narrowly or in too condensed a form the propositions of counsel, the *ius cogens* principle did have a part to play in the present context and for the reasons given in *In re Acanal* (1988) 19 L & N 211.

The *ius cogens* principle was not a rigid rule but an aid to construction and the substance of the links required to constitute people as a "particular social group" had to be considered in the context of the Convention and article 1A(2).

The characteristic that defined the social group in situations such as the present, had to be one that the members should not be required to change because it was fundamental to their individual identities or conscience.

The Supreme Court of Canada in *Attorney-General of Canada v Ward* (1993) 103 DLR (4th) 1, cited by Lord Justice Hutchison in *Adan v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [The Times March 7, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 1107], referred to "groups whose members voluntarily associate for reasons so fundamental to their human dignity that they should not be forced to forsake the association."

Shared duties in midwifery did not come within that principle. The expression "particular social group" did not ordinarily cover a body of people linked only by the work they did. A common employment did not ordinarily have that impact upon individual identities or conscience necessary to constitute a particular social group within the meaning of the Convention.

His Lordship accepted the possibility that fellow employees might constitute a particular social group if by reason of the nature of their employment, or the addition of other links to those of employment, the above principle applied. Employment as a member of a religious order could be an example.

Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Davis Blank Furniss, Manchester.

Remedy for excessive seizure of material

Regina v Chief Constable for Warwickshire and Others, Ex parte F and Others
Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Jowitt
[Judgment October 1]

Where an individual complained of excessive seizure of material pursuant to a search warrant by the police he should generally proceed by way of private law remedy rather than by judicial review.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an application in part by several applicants for judicial review of the issue of various search warrants by Leominster Spa Magistrates Court on April 11, 1997 and April 15, 1997 authorising police officers to search premises which were the homes of some of some of the applicants, their business premises and a document store.

Mr Timothy Barnes, QC and Mr Collingwood Thompson for the applicants; Mr Timothy King, QC and Mr Graham Wells for the chief constable.

MR JUSTICE JOWITT said that the applicants were suspected by the police of conspiracy to defraud. Seven search warrants were issued giving the police wide powers to seize information stored on computers and computer equipment, paper, diaries, appointment books and banking documents relating to the alleged conspiracy.

The applicants claimed, inter alia, that the warrants were too wide in scope and did not sufficiently identify the articles to be sought. His Lordship found that the warrants were lawful and that with our exception there had not been excessive seizure by the police.

His Lordship noted that judicial review was not a fact finding exercise and was an extremely unsatisfactory tool by which to determine, in any but the clearest cases, whether there had been a seizure of material not permitted by a search warrant.

A person who complained of excessive seizure under section 168 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 should not, save in such cases, seek his remedy by way of judicial review but should rely on his private law remedy when he would have a tribunal which would be able to hear evidence and make findings unfettered by *Wednesbury* principles of reasonableness ([1948] 1 KB 223).

In an appropriate case the court in a private law action could grant interlocutory relief on a speedy basis so that in all but the clearest cases of a breach of section 168 judicial review had only disadvantages and no advantages when compared with the private law remedy.

Lord Justice Rose agreed.

Solicitors: Howes Percival, Leicester; Weightmans, Liverpool.

Notice requiring works to abate nuisance must be specific

Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council v Field and Others
Before Lord Justice Brooke, Lord Justice Ours and Mr Justice Gage
[Judgment October 31]

Where an abatement notice required a person to carry out works to abate a nuisance, that notice had to ensure that the person knew what works had to be done and had to specify those works if there was any doubt.

The Queen's Bench Divisional

Court so held, in a specially constituted three-judge court to decide the issue once and for all, when dismissing in a reserved judgment an appeal by Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council by way of case stated against the decision of Bradford Crown Court (Judge Hoffmann and Justices of November 9, 1995 to allow the appeals of Colin Field, Anne Thackray, Peter Marsh and Leslie Wilson against the decision of Huddersfield Justices of April 28, 1995 that abatement notices served

on them by the council under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 were valid.

Mr Toby Davey for the council; Mr Charles Machin for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE OWEN said that the council had served on the respondents abatement notices under section 80 of the 1990 Act, concerning a wall owned by them which was in imminent danger of collapse.

The notices required the respondents to abate the statutory nuisance caused by the wall but did not specify what works were considered necessary.

The question was whether the 1990 Act intended to perpetuate the interpretation that the courts had put on the Public Health Act 1875, which was that an order which required a person to take steps to abate a nuisance had to specify those steps: see *Whitely* (1885) 16 QB 349 and *Millard v Wessall* (1898) 1 QB 342.

His Lordship fully agreed with the decision of the Divisional Court in *Sterling Homes (Midlands) Ltd v Birmingham City Council* (1996) Env LR 121 which had answered that question in the affirmative.

An abatement notice had to inform its recipient of what was wrong so he knew what was wrong. It also had to ensure that he knew what he had to do to abate the nuisance.

In cases where the person was required to take positive steps to end the nuisance, rather than cease causing the nuisance, it could be necessary to specify those steps to avoid doubt. Since the notices had not specified any such steps, they had been invalid.

Mr Justice Gage agreed and Lord Justice Brooke delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr John Emms, Huddersfield; Eaton Smith & Downey, Huddersfield.

No right of appeal

Maile v Manchester City Council
A litigant had no right of appeal to the Court of Appeal from a High Court judge's decision on a case stated under section 111 of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Thorpe) so held on October 16 when refusing to entertain an appeal by Mr Christopher Maile from the dismissal by Mr Justice Laws on March 20, 1997, of his appeal by way of case stated from a decision of Mr James Prowse, acting stipendiary magistrate, in relation to an application by Manchester City Council, under section 116 of the Highways Act

1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

LORD JUSTICE HUTCHISON said that it was clear that the effect of the provisions of section 116 and 28A, as inserted by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1993, of the Supreme Court Act 1981 was to prohibit any appeal from the judge's decision in relation both to findings of fact and of law.

Mr Maile was unable to advert the difficulty imposed on him by those sections by relying on paragraph 59(1)(2) of *The Supreme Court Practice* 1997, on rights of appeal on questions of law, or on Order 14A, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, on determination of questions of law or construction.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

His Lordship said that the provisions of section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to stop up a number of footpaths at New Bank Street, Ennals, Longsight.

European Law Report

Choosing which court hears the case

Von Horn v Cinnamond
Case C-164/95

Before H. Ragnemalm, President of the Court of Justice, G. F. Mancini, P. J. G. Kapteyn, J. L. Murray and G. Hirsch. Advocate General F. G. Jacobs. (Opinion May 16, 1996) [Judgment October 9]

Where proceedings involving the same parties and cause of action were commenced in two contracting states, the first before the Brussels Convention came into force between those states and the second after that date, the court second seized had to decline jurisdiction under article 21 of the Convention if the court first seized had assumed jurisdiction on the basis of a rule according with the jurisdiction provisions of the Brussels Convention or other convention in force between the states when the proceedings were instituted.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference by the House of Lords for a preliminary ruling pursuant to the protocol of June 3, 1971 on the interpretation by the Court of Justice of the Brussels Convention of September 27, 1968 on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters.

The question referred concerned the interpretation of (a) article 21 of the Convention as amended by the Convention of October 9, 1978 on the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom (amended text in OJ 1978 L304 p77), the Convention of October 25, 1982 on the accession of Greece (OJ 1982 L338 p1) and the Convention of May 26, 1983 on the accession of Spain and Portugal (the San Sebastian Convention) (OJ 1989 L285 p1), and (b) article 29 of the San Sebastian Convention.

In August 1991 Mr Cinnamond, domiciled in the United Kingdom, brought proceedings in Portugal for a declaration that he did not owe *Freifrau von Horn*, domiciled in Portugal, a sum claimed by her as payment for the sale of shares in a property company.

In November 1992 *Freifrau von Horn* issued a writ in the High Court for payment of a sum as the balance due for the shares, or damages. Mr Cinnamond issued a

summons for a declaration that the English court lacked jurisdiction.

The matter proceeded to the House of Lords, whose question to the European Court concerned whether, in the circumstances, the second set of proceedings should have been stayed or jurisdiction declined.

Article 21 of the Brussels Convention as amended provides: "Where proceedings involving the same cause of action and between the same parties are brought in the courts of different contracting states, any court other than the court first seized shall of its own motion stay its proceedings until such time as the jurisdiction of the court first seized is established."

Where the jurisdiction of the court first seized is established, any court other than the court first seized shall decline jurisdiction in favour of that court.

Article 29 of the San Sebastian Convention provides: "(1) The 1968 Convention . . . as amended . . . shall apply only to legal proceedings instituted . . . after the entry into force of this Convention in the state of origin and, where recognition or enforcement of a judgment . . . is sought, in the state addressed."

"(2) However, judgments given after the date of entry into force of this Convention between the state of origin and the state addressed in proceedings instituted before that date shall be recognised and enforced in accordance with . . . the 1968 Convention, as amended . . . if jurisdiction was founded upon rules which accorded with the provisions of Title II of the 1968 Convention, as amended, or with the provisions of a convention which was in force between the state of origin and the state addressed when the proceedings were instituted."

In its judgment the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held: "The San Sebastian Convention entered into force between Portugal and the United Kingdom on July 1, 1992.

The rule which governed the temporal application of article 21 of the Brussels Convention was therefore that laid down in article 29(1) of the San Sebastian Convention.

However that provision did not allow it to be determined with certainty whether article 21 applied where the first proceedings were

brought in a contracting state before the date of entry into force of the San Sebastian Convention and the second proceedings were brought in another contracting state after that date, or whether both sets of proceedings must have been brought after the entry into force of the San Sebastian Convention.

Both Interpretations were capable of leading to consequences which were unsatisfactory and contrary to the aims of the Brussels Convention. In particular to facilitate reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments and to strengthen the legal protection of persons established in the Community.

The view that article 21 applied where the second proceedings had been brought after the date of entry into force of the San Sebastian Convention, even if the first action was commenced before that date, could in certain circumstances make it impossible for the parties to the proceedings to obtain a judgment enforceable in the state where the second proceedings took place.

The alternative view would lead to the two sets of proceedings continuing in the two states, possibly resulting in the delivery of two irreconcilable judgments, neither of which could be recognised in the other state.

In those circumstances it was essential to interpret article 29(1) in the light of the structure and aims of the two Conventions.

The Court then stated the way in which that article was to be interpreted, as set out in the operative part below.

The Court's conclusion did mean that a court of a contracting state would review the jurisdiction of a court of another contracting state outside the cases expressly listed in articles 28 and 34 of the Brussels Convention, even though, as the court held in Case C-351/89 *Overseas Union Insurance Ltd v New Hampshire Insurance Co* ([1991] ECR I-3317, paragraph 24), the Convention did not authorise such a review apart from those limited exceptions.

However, an exception to that principle appeared justified in the situation referred.

The court second seized must restrict itself to determining whether the jurisdiction of the

court first seized accorded with the rules of the Brussels Convention, or a convention concluded between the two states, which were common to both courts and could be interpreted with equal authority by the courts of both states.

In the particular case where the jurisdiction of the court first seized derived from a state of affairs, from the law of the state of that court, which would thus undeniably be better placed to rule on the question of its own jurisdiction, the court second seized should restrict itself to ascertaining whether the conditions for the application of that provision were satisfied, namely that the plaintiff was domiciled in a contracting state and the defendant was not domiciled in such a state.

In no case could the court second seized assess the jurisdiction of the court first seized in the light of the law of the state of that court.

For the reasons stated by the European Court ruled: Article 29(1) of the San Sebastian Convention was to be interpreted as meaning that where proceedings involving the same cause of action and between the same parties were pending in two different contracting states, the first proceedings having been brought before the date of entry into force of the Brussels Convention between those states, the second proceedings after that date, the court second seized must apply article 21 of the latter Convention if the court first seized had assumed jurisdiction on the basis of a rule which accorded with the provisions of Title II of that Convention or with the provisions of a convention which was in force between the two states concerned when the proceedings were instituted, and must do so provisionally if the court first seized had not yet ruled on whether it had jurisdiction.

On the other hand, the court second seized must not apply article 21 of the Brussels Convention if the court first seized had assumed jurisdiction on the basis of a rule which did not accord with the provisions of Title II of that Convention or with the provisions of a convention which was in force between those two states when the proceedings were instituted.

On the other hand, the court second seized must not apply article 21 of the Brussels Convention if the court first seized had assumed jurisdiction on the basis of a rule which did not accord with the provisions of Title II of that Convention or with the provisions of a convention which was in force between those two states when the proceedings were instituted.

On the other hand, the court second seized must not apply article 21 of the Brussels Convention if the court first seized had assumed jurisdiction on the basis of a rule which did not accord with the provisions of Title II of that Convention or with the provisions of a convention which was in force between those two states when the proceedings were instituted.

On the other hand, the court second seized must not apply article 21 of the Brussels Convention if the court first seized had assumed jurisdiction on the basis of a rule which did not accord with the provisions of Title II of that Convention or with the provisions of a convention which was in force between those two states when the proceedings were instituted.

On the other hand, the court second seized must not apply article 21 of the Brussels Convention if the court first seized had assumed jurisdiction on the basis of a rule which did not accord with the provisions of Title II of that Convention or with the provisions of a convention which was in force between those two states when the proceedings were instituted.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

GIVE THOSE SPECIAL FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING ABROAD THE IDEAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Set up a subscription to The Times for them at substantial discounts off local cover price and let them enjoy early morning delivery on the day of publication. We'll send you a

FREE 1998 DESK DIARY

when we receive your order.

HAND DELIVERY RATES (Except Luxembourg, Rest of Europe and USA)						
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	12 MONTHS	SAVINGS ON COVER PRICE	6 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	SATURDAY ONLY 1 YEAR
BELGIUM						

هكذا من راحل

Take a letter, Mr Smith... Jennai Cox looks at how more men are returning to their historical role as secretaries

Office secs change

TIME SAVERS

You may use the Paste Special command in various Microsoft Office programmes. This means, for instance, that when you update the balances in an Excel spreadsheet the relevant part in your monthly report in Word is also changed and vice versa.

But you may have found that the Paste Special command doesn't work with PowerPoint. And that PowerPoint slides you include in Word won't automatically update. When you copy the slide and then choose Edit/Paste Special in Word, linking is not an option, so you have to manually re-include the slide.

There is an alternative, though. In Word choose Insert/Object/Create From File and tick the "Link to File" option. Type in the full path to the PowerPoint slide, or use the "Browse" button to find it, click OK and then OK again to insert the file and close the dialog box. Your PowerPoint presentation will now be included inside your Word document and update as the original changes. You can use the same method in Access and Excel.

CHRIS WARD

Secretaries were once nothing but male; at the start of the century it was a highly-regarded and prestigious vocation for young men. When the men went to war, women filled their roles and have stayed there ever since. But men are making a slow but sure comeback.

Technology, a changing job market and an increasing number of female executives all play a part in the re-emergence of the male PA as the line between traditionally male and female jobs dissolves and the secretarial role expands.

For the first time since Queen's Business and Secretarial College was founded 70 years ago, a third of those attending its six-week secretarial skills course this autumn were men. With about 80 per cent of all jobs now requiring keyboard skills, men are at last waking up to the fact that fast typing and competence with computers are as important for them as for women, says Corinne Bickford, the principal of Queen's in South Kensington, London.

"A lot of girls do courses to capitalise on their degrees and get into the job market, and there is no reason why boys shouldn't, too," she says. Many know how to play games on computers, but few can type efficiently or write a coherent business letter.

William Fox-Robinson, 18, enrolled on a three-month course at Queen's. Apart from being attracted

to the idea of being the only boy in a class of 60, he wanted to improve his job prospects before going to Leeds University next year. "I've been told by employment agencies that having these skills is a good way of getting into a business," he says. "I'd recommend it to anyone."

According to a study for the Rowntree Foundation last year, men will have to start considering jobs that until recently have more commonly been done by women. Being a secretary is one of them. A quarter of all Office Angels agency's temps are men — up 10 per cent on last year and expected to rise to 35 per cent by 2002.

"The idea that secretarial work is a 'job for the girls' died, but our figures show that perceptions are definitely changing," says Laurence Rosen, chairman and chief executive of Office Angels.

The 60 per cent increase in the number of female executives during the past four years could also explain the rise in the number of male PAs. According to Lisa Kelly, managing director of Meridian Recruitment, they are often seen as the answer to a difficult female boss. "Invariably women in high positions are used to getting their own way and a man is more tolerant of moods and stropfulness than another woman," she says. "The men know how to charm them."

But the increase in men in secretarial roles is still slow, largely

because the word secretary is linked with women and the reluctance of many recruitment agencies to register men. "There is a great lack of understanding among men about secretarial work," Ms Kelly says. "We tell them unless they are prepared to roll up their sleeves and do anything they will find it hard to get a job."

Clare Taylor, placements manager at St Aldates college in Oxford, tells her students to look beyond the job title and realise what a fantastic opportunity a secretarial job could be. "The word secretary disguises what can be achieved," she says. Many companies are now using words such as "executory" to reflect the altered role.

Reed Employment says it puts forward the most suitable candidate for a job, whatever their sex. More than a third of the secretaries placed by its Welwyn Garden City office in north London are men, and once they have had a chance to prove their ability, they are often asked back.

Reza Mahmood, a 23-year-old graduate, says although he found working as a secretary for British Aerospace odd at first, his experience has been invaluable: "I feel involved and that I've made a contribution to help the business to run smoothly. I've got a feel for senior management and learnt how to communicate more effectively."

Taking a job as a secretary in



Adrie van der Luitj: "All the evidence suggests we are just as good as women, sometimes even better"

Roche, the pharmaceuticals company, was the best career move Anthony Fuller has made. The 26-year-old Oxford graduate says: "I've worked for a variety of companies and it makes you more adaptable, which is useful in today's flexible job market."

While many companies welcome male secretaries, some more old-

fashioned professions would not even contemplate hiring one. So men wanting to try secretarial work can still face discrimination. Half of the complaints received by the Equal Opportunities Commission last year were from men, many about being denied access to secretarial roles.

Adrie van der Luitj, 30, who has

been a secretary for eight years and was nominated for the 1994 National Secretary of the Year, says men do still face a battle. "The issue of men as secretaries needs to be set firmly on the agenda. It isn't even considered an option for boys at school, yet all the evidence suggests we are just as good as women, sometimes even better."

Telephone: 0171 680 6806

Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586



PERMANENT

We are currently recruiting for a major international Management Consultancy who have an urgent requirement for secretaries at various levels. The key to securing a long term career with such a prestigious organisation is professionalism, enthusiasm, flexibility and a wide-eyedness.

Listed below is just a sample of their immediate vacancies.

Similar Recruitment Secretary £19,000 WC2 (Ref 5218)
• Reporting to 2 x senior Recruiters and Manager
• Candidate liaison, working to deadlines
• 1 years preferred experience
• Word for Windows, Power-Point, Lotus Notes.

Graduate Recruitment Secretary £18,000 WC2 (Ref 5217)
• Applicant data base, university liaison
• Admin of all grad schemes
• Attending milk rounds, computer literacy
• Good GCSE qualifications, approximately 2-3 years exp

Benefits
• 5 weeks holiday, BUPA, Pension, subsidised canteen
• Free eye tests, well woman clinic, overtime
• Free gym membership, discounts on Covent Garden shops
• Extra holiday at Christmas, paid travel for evening overtime.

PERMANENT

A selection of other immediate opportunities as follows:

Personal Assistant Ad Agency £15,000 WC2 (Ref G223)
• Ideal opening for second jobber - full training given
• New department, fast moving environment
• Excel, Word and Powerpoint - polish and pizzazz
• Benefits BUPA, 20 days holiday rising.

Marketing Secretary Luxury Goods £18,500 SW7 (Ref 5197)
• PA to Director, international diary co-ordination
• Preparing presentations - attending meetings
• Supplier liaison etc, Ampro, Lotus, Powerpoint
• Benefits, beautiful offices, discounts, BUPA, pension

Legal Secretary Property Company £20,000 WC2 (Ref 5196)
• Conveyancing, junior partner level
• Upmarket, professional, WordPerfect 6.0 experience
• Pressurised, immediate start
• Benefits, excellent overtime, January salary review

Receptionist PR £14,500 SW1 (Ref N55)
• Very hectic reception, greeting clients
• Exp of L.Hall and switchboard 80X 180
• Bright, flexible and proactive, sense of urgency
• Benefits, Profit Related bonus, half price Health Club

Working Wonders (Recruitment) Ltd
31 Villiers Street, London WC2N 6ND
(next door to BR Charing Cross)
T (0171) 930 9080 • (0171) 839 2412

Chairman's PA - £30,000 +

The company is highly respected as a leader in its field. It is expanding and seeks some of the major organisations in this country with expansion plans.

The Chairman is very well known in City, Business and Parliamentary circles. The role of his PA is fascinating, yet very demanding with ever-changing priorities. So a good organiser is essential, together with a sound commercial background.

Age 28-35 Skills 100/70.
0171 629 9323
DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

The company: Leading international business/finance adviser.

The role: PA to dynamic head of global marketing and special projects; extensive international liaison; organising dinners, meetings and travel.

The essential: Sound corporate experience, flexibility and initiative (e.g. organising conferences etc); strong character with good communication skills; fast, accurate typing.

special projects

£21,800 - Marketing GORDON-YATES

CENTRE POINT GROUP

BANKING AND SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

International Sales

PA/Secretary c£25k + benefits

A creative and innovative secretary with good communication skills to assist the Head of the International Sales department of this fast track European bank. The successful candidate will have a financial services background including a trading floor environment combined with client, front and back office experience.

Confident and personable, you will be responsible for the day to day running of sales, efficient and flexible player with a level education and a proven track record of administration and event organising. For further details call:

Averil Carr or Hilary Okeanu
on 0171 588 5888 Fax: 0171 588 8810
16 St Baker's Place, London EC3A 6DP.

TALENTED TEMPS

Excellent Banking Secretaries urgently required.

Minimum of 1 years experience within Banking sector. You will have excellent w/p knowledge including Microsoft Office and Desk Top Publishing skills. Good telephone manner and organisational abilities also needed. Please call Jane or Cara on 0171 600 8098.

MONTPELIER

ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED

OFFICE JUNIOR

Knightsbridge based, finance company have a vacancy for an office junior. If you are returning to work or looking for your first job this could be an ideal opportunity. Candidates should be 'A' level educated, well spoken, enthusiastic, computer literate and highly motivated. Starting salary £11,500 plus private health insurance and travel loan.

Please send CV and covering letter to: 5th Floor, 343 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1DN. All applications should be marked for the attention of Mrs J. Khan. No agencies.

Assist the fight against cancer

PA/Secretary to Head of Personnel

up to £18.5k plus benefits

London WC2

This is a demanding position, providing a range of administrative and secretarial services to the Head and Deputy Head of Personnel as part of an impressive charitable organisation which makes a real difference to people's lives. You'll have considerable responsibility, and will need character and confidence to be able to communicate with a range of people at all levels, both internally and externally.

The role will provide you with a varied spectrum of work, from advising staff on Personnel issues to organising schedules and meetings. You must be able to cope with a challenging workload, involving large volumes of paperwork, dictation, typing and minute-taking. PC literate and highly organised, you possess plenty of initiative and a desire to get results.

If you are an outstanding self-starter who'd rather help the fight against cancer than do 'just another PA job' please send two copies of your CV with a covering letter to: The Head of Personnel, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, PO Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX. Please quote reference: 1661/T.

Closing date: 3 December 1997.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund
A Job for life

Supporting Good Causes

PA/Administrator

£12,225 - £18,200

Leicester

Thousands of groups, communities and charities are benefiting from lottery funds distributed by the Board in England. If you are an efficient, experienced PA used to operating at a rapid pace and dealing with a high volume of throughput you could make a positive contribution.

You will provide high level secretarial and administrative support to our Director for England at our headquarters in Leicester and supervise an administrative assistant within the team. The role will be varied and challenging, calling for initiative, the ability to prioritise effectively and strong communication skills. Diary Management, liaising with 9 regional offices, grant recipients and MPs and the preparation and circulation of reports are key components of the post.



NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD

Positively committed to equal opportunity

At least two years' experience as a senior PA, a minimum of 65 wpm typing/audio skills and an in-depth understanding of computerised office systems (Microsoft Office, email, databases) are essential.

For further details and an application form (despatched 2nd class post), please contact the Personnel Department, National Lottery Charities Board, St Vincent House, George Street, London WC2H 7NL. Tel: 0171 747 5219/5303 (24 hour answering machine) or 0171 747 5257 during office hours. Please quote ref: 183/T. Closing date: Monday 8th December 1997.

£16-£20k (dependent on experience) NW3

PA's in all-media publishing

Get Publishing, part of The Thomson Corporation, is the UK's most dynamic and innovative all-media business publisher. We now offer excellent career opportunities for a senior PA to the Managing Director and HR Executive.

Providing efficient, all-round secretarial support, using Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint, you will act on your initiative to organise busy diaries, manage administrative and financial issues and ensure that all communications, press, publicity and HR are backed by polished secretarial skills and 3-5 years' experience in a similar role.

Benefits include contributory pension, discounted BUPA, discounts on Thomson holidays and subsidised health club membership. Please write with CV stating current salary details to: Michelle Cummins, Get Publishing Limited, 100 Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, London NW3 3PC. Closing date: 28th November 1997.



Innovative in business publishing

CITY SOLICITOR AND SECRETARIES

On a scale within the range

£19,113 - £22,653 P.A. INC. L.W. depending on skills, experience and qualifications.

Plus the opportunity to earn up to 10% of basic salary through Performance Related Pay

As a result of a reorganisation within the City Solicitor's Secretarial Support Team, a post of Executive Assistant has been created to provide a high level support service to the City Solicitor and Secretary. As part of this role, you will be expected to provide confidential secretarial and personal assistance to the City Solicitor and Secretary, but you will also need to be capable of undertaking research and ad hoc projects as directed. You will also manage, control and supervise the Secretarial Support Team.

You will need to be an experienced secretary with the ability to manage and prioritise your own workload together with that of your team. It is essential that you are able to use Word Perfect 5.1 and Microsoft Word and you must have effective personal and written communication skills.

The post requires flexibility, the ability to work under pressure and to work as part of a small team.

Benefits include: a generous annual leave at interest free season ticket loan as free swimming facilities as staff discount card as excellent pension scheme.

For an application form please telephone 0171 641 1996 or 0171 641 1997 and leave the details requested by the answering machine. Please quote ref: CSM47/E. Closing date: 5th December 1997.

The Council operates a No Smoking at Work Policy.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.

City of Westminster

PUT YOUR CAREER UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Personal Career Advice for Executive Secretaries



Office Manager

NW1 To £22,000

Previous experience in a stationery supply company is essential for this role. Reporting directly to the Company Directors, the position will involve managing a small team, setting up new office procedures and assisting with sales and account management. Experience of management reports, marginal costing and a good knowledge of MS Office W4W essential.

0171 224 2820

94 Baker Street, London W1M 1LA

Partner's Secretary

Embankment £20,000

Providing an effective secretarial and administrative service to two partners of a major consultancy firm in this busy, varied role. Duties include typing, organising diaries and travel, maintaining the filing system and including project information. Good technical skills and experience, a minimum of five years' previous experience and 60 wpm essential for this exciting role.

0171 638 1666

87 Moorgate, London EC2M 6SA

For more information on these and other high profile positions for Senior Secretaries and PAs, call now.

Open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday

For over 1,000 jobs visit http://www.reed.co.uk

REED

West Indies follow
and elevators

ALAN TIT



Telephone: 0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

0171 680 6806

GOLF: WAY AND SHERRY AMONG CASUALTIES AS RAIN DISRUPTS EUROPEAN TOUR QUALIFYING SCHOOL

Second cut the deepest for Britons

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SOTOGRADE

IT WAS a clever marketing ploy to name the Costa del Sol the "Costa del Golf" in time for the thousands of spectators who attended the Ryder Cup two months ago to notice it as they drove along the road from Malaga to Cadiz. It was ironic, then, that in September, torrential rain and thunderstorms disrupted the competition, and it has been infuriating that rain has fallen almost every day for the past week on this supposedly sun-drenched coast of Spain.

Southern Spain, the home of thousands of leathery Scandinavians, Germans and Britons, was a dank, desolate place yesterday. Half an inch of rain fell in five hours, bringing further complications to the European Tour qualifying school, which has now been reduced from six to four rounds and, one hopes, will be completed today — and if not today, then tomorrow. "Costa del Confusion" would have been a more suitable title.

For most of yesterday morning, after the competition had initially been reduced to 90 holes, it looked as though the 72-hole guillotine would fall at three over par. The leading 75 players would then have played one more round, and the leading 40 of those would have received their card to compete on the European Tour next year. Some players pulled off considerable acts of skill and courage to get to three over par.

Gordon Sherry, the former Walker Cup player, and Paul Way, who competed in the Ryder Cup as long ago as 1983, had only a few holes to play yesterday morning to complete their fourth rounds. It was cold, dark and windy — but



Rain check: Prosser peers out at the soaked Guadalmina course from the clubhouse yesterday

dry — when they started just before nine o'clock.

Way birdied two of his last three holes and Sherry saved his par with a deft pitch from thick greenside grass and a brave four-foot putt. They retired to the San Roque clubhouse for a well-deserved cup of coffee. Little did they know at that point how

circumstances were going to combine to render their determined finishes useless.

Guadalmina is on the western outskirts of Marbella. It has one of the oldest courses on this coast and a comfortable hotel overlooking the sea — as well as, incidentally, a house owned by Sean Connery. It was there that the other 90 competi-

tors were playing, and many of them were trying to finish their fourth rounds, too.

Though Guadalmina is only 25 miles along the coast, the weather there was much worse. Furthermore, the South Course is low-lying and less able to cope with rain. Play was half an hour late starting and then abandoned for

the day at 12.20pm, when most of the course was flooded. Some players even suggested that it had been barely playable at 9am.

Just after 2pm, Andy McFee, the tournament director, looked at the sodden courses, the rain that was descending in stair rods, and reduced the tournament from five to four rounds. He sent those competitors who had completed 72 holes back to their hotels and asked those who had not to return this morning at 9am.

Those who had not finished were at the end of the field, and whatever scores they achieve this morning, their performances cannot affect the leaders. Thus, although the tournament has not officially been concluded, it is possible to say that Chris van der Velde, a 33-year-old Dutchman, who finished eight under par, was the winner, having had the lowest last round. Fredrik Henge, from Sweden, was second, Robert-Jan Derksen third, Phil Goulding fourth, Michael Campbell fifth and David Thomson sixth.

"I've been trying to finish my fourth round since Monday," Darrin Prosser, a 28-year-old professional from Brinkley Hill in the West Midlands, said. He played only two strokes on Monday before rain brought play to a halt, managed 11 holes yesterday and was due to return this morning to play the remaining 6½ holes.

However, at least Prosser has a chance of finishing among the top 40 and getting one of those magical cards. He is three over par and needs to play the remaining holes in at least three under to do so. At three over par, Way and Sherry have no chance. For Way, the hero of the 1983 Ryder Cup in the United States, and Sherry, for whom such a bright future was promised, the immediate future is bleak.

SNOOKER

Hendry believes problems are all in his mind

By PHIL YATES

PSYCHOLOGICAL or technical? That is the question. Has Stephen Hendry's poor start to the season been caused by an idiosyncrasy within his cue delivery or has a shortage of confidence been to blame?

In Hendry's own mind, there is no doubt. He meets Alan McManus in the quarter-finals of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Preston tonight, firmly maintaining that his recent shortcomings are the result of wavering concentration.

Ian Doyle, Hendry's manager, holds a different opinion. He even requested a videotape of the player's 9-8 victory over Anthony Hamilton in the last 16 on Saturday, hoping to point out what he perceives to be a fault in Hendry's cue action.

Hendry is sure to receive this scepticism. As highly as he values Doyle's business acumen, his view of his technical expertise was once encapsulated in the phrase: "I can't know a snooker cue from a bus queue."

Indeed, most observers agree that Doyle is wrong. Anyone who can compile eight century breaks during a single practice session, as Hendry did on the eve of the championship, surely cannot be striking the cue-ball inaccurately.

Hendry beat McManus 9-1 in the semi-finals of the UK championship last year, but is unlikely to enjoy an equally untroubled passage this time. "I am expecting a toughie," Hendry, attempting to

win his 22nd consecutive match in the event, said. McManus has beaten Hendry on seven of their 22 meetings and on four other occasions has lost only after a deciding frame was necessary. "I've got a feeling I'm going to play well," he said. "Any match with Stephen seems to help raise my game."

Hendry is also convinced that optimum form is imminent. "I am very close to producing my best and whoever is on the receiving end of it, it will be good to watch," he said.

Gerard Greene ensured his first appearance in the quarter-finals of a world-ranking tournament, after four years on the professional circuit, with a 9-5 victory over Gary Ponsford yesterday. The game lasted the thirteenth frame. Trailing 69-33, with only the colours remaining, Greene might have conceded. Instead, he got two of the three snookers he required. Ponsford fouled the white on his next visit and Greene went on to lead 8-5 by clearing blue, pink and black. He will meet Ronnie O'Sullivan or Gary Wilkinson.

Martin Dzwialowski, a Glaswegian of Latvian descent, became only the third player, after Tony Knowles and McManus, to compile a century break on his television debut, in his fourth-round match against Dean Reynolds. But Reynolds employed his greater experience to build a 5-3 lead and emerge as the most likely opponent for Matthew Stevens in the last eight.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Denver 21 Oakland 8

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 80 Portland 81; Orlando 95 Washington 87; Utah 123 Minnesota 124 (OT)

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH (one day): Pacific South Islands 282-9 (all out); California 104-11 (all out); ACB Chennai 10 281-7 (all out); M. M. M. 62-1; M. M. M. 55-1; all out; South Africa 101-1; all out

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton 2 Ipswich 2; Crystal Palace 4 Queens Park Rangers 2

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second division: Southampton 4 Bourne-mouthe 1

Monday's late results:

FA CUP: First-round replay: Stevenage 5 Charlton 0 (Stevenage play Plymouth at Darlington United in second round)

UNBORN LEAGUE: Premier division: First round: Aston United 2 Walsley 2

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge 6 Haysley 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 4 Luton 1; Sutton 1 Milton 1

PONTING LEAGUE: Premier division: Manchester United 5 Preston 2; Derby 3 Nottingham Forest 1

Sunderland 2 Luton 1; Second division: Burnley 1 Blackpool 1

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Portsmouth 2 Colchester 1; Walsley 2

SCREWPICK DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Portsmouth 2 Colchester 1

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First-round replay: Brighton 1 Woking 1; Second round: Brighton 1 Woking 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Segunda 1 Sporting Gijón 1

SCHOOLS MATCH: Fuji Film Trophy: Third round: Tokyo 0 Yokohama 3

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: First division: Independiente 1 Huracán 1; Lanús 4 Vélez 2; San Lorenzo 2 Boca Juniors 1

NEWELL'S OLD BOYS: Premier division: 1. Boca Juniors 2. Boca Juniors 3. Boca Juniors 4. Boca Juniors 5. Boca Juniors 6. Boca Juniors 7. Boca Juniors 8. Boca Juniors 9. Boca Juniors 10. Boca Juniors 11. Boca Juniors 12. Boca Juniors 13. Boca Juniors 14. Boca Juniors 15. Boca Juniors 16. Boca Juniors 17. Boca Juniors 18. Boca Juniors 19. Boca Juniors 20. Boca Juniors 21. Boca Juniors 22. Boca Juniors 23. Boca Juniors 24. Boca Juniors 25. Boca Juniors 26. Boca Juniors 27. Boca Juniors 28. Boca Juniors 29. Boca Juniors 30. Boca Juniors 31. Boca Juniors 32. Boca Juniors 33. Boca Juniors 34. Boca Juniors 35. Boca Juniors 36. Boca Juniors 37. Boca Juniors 38. Boca Juniors 39. Boca Juniors 40. Boca Juniors 41. Boca Juniors 42. Boca Juniors 43. Boca Juniors 44. Boca Juniors 45. Boca Juniors 46. Boca Juniors 47. Boca Juniors 48. Boca Juniors 49. Boca Juniors 50. Boca Juniors 51. Boca Juniors 52. Boca Juniors 53. Boca Juniors 54. Boca Juniors 55. Boca Juniors 56. Boca Juniors 57. Boca Juniors 58. Boca Juniors 59. Boca Juniors 60. Boca Juniors 61. Boca Juniors 62. Boca Juniors 63. Boca Juniors 64. Boca Juniors 65. Boca Juniors 66. Boca Juniors 67. Boca Juniors 68. Boca Juniors 69. Boca Juniors 70. Boca Juniors 71. Boca Juniors 72. Boca Juniors 73. Boca Juniors 74. Boca Juniors 75. Boca Juniors 76. Boca Juniors 77. Boca Juniors 78. Boca Juniors 79. Boca Juniors 80. Boca Juniors 81. Boca Juniors 82. Boca Juniors 83. Boca Juniors 84. Boca Juniors 85. Boca Juniors 86. Boca Juniors 87. Boca Juniors 88. Boca Juniors 89. Boca Juniors 90. Boca Juniors 91. Boca Juniors 92. Boca Juniors 93. Boca Juniors 94. Boca Juniors 95. Boca Juniors 96. Boca Juniors 97. Boca Juniors 98. Boca Juniors 99. Boca Juniors 100. Boca Juniors 101. Boca Juniors 102. Boca Juniors 103. Boca Juniors 104. Boca Juniors 105. Boca Juniors 106. Boca Juniors 107. Boca Juniors 108. Boca Juniors 109. Boca Juniors 110. Boca Juniors 111. Boca Juniors 112. Boca Juniors 113. Boca Juniors 114. Boca Juniors 115. Boca Juniors 116. Boca Juniors 117. Boca Juniors 118. Boca Juniors 119. Boca Juniors 120. Boca Juniors 121. Boca Juniors 122. Boca Juniors 123. Boca Juniors 124. Boca Juniors 125. Boca Juniors 126. Boca Juniors 127. Boca Juniors 128. Boca Juniors 129. Boca Juniors 130. Boca Juniors 131. Boca Juniors 132. Boca Juniors 133. Boca Juniors 134. Boca Juniors 135. Boca Juniors 136. Boca Juniors 137. Boca Juniors 138. Boca Juniors 139. Boca Juniors 140. Boca Juniors 141. Boca Juniors 142. Boca Juniors 143. Boca Juniors 144. Boca Juniors 145. Boca Juniors 146. Boca Juniors 147. Boca Juniors 148. Boca Juniors 149. Boca Juniors 150. Boca Juniors 151. Boca Juniors 152. Boca Juniors 153. Boca Juniors 154. Boca Juniors 155. Boca Juniors 156. Boca Juniors 157. Boca Juniors 158. Boca Juniors 159. Boca Juniors 160. Boca Juniors 161. Boca Juniors 162. Boca Juniors 163. Boca Juniors 164. Boca Juniors 165. Boca Juniors 166. Boca Juniors 167. Boca Juniors 168. Boca Juniors 169. Boca Juniors 170. Boca Juniors 171. Boca Juniors 172. Boca Juniors 173. Boca Juniors 174. Boca Juniors 175. Boca Juniors 176. Boca Juniors 177. Boca Juniors 178. Boca Juniors 179. Boca Juniors 180. Boca Juniors 181. Boca Juniors 182. Boca Juniors 183. Boca Juniors 184. Boca Juniors 185. Boca Juniors 186. Boca Juniors 187. Boca Juniors 188. Boca Juniors 189. Boca Juniors 190. Boca Juniors 191. Boca Juniors 192. Boca Juniors 193. Boca Juniors 194. Boca Juniors 195. Boca Juniors 196. Boca Juniors 197. Boca Juniors 198. Boca Juniors 199. Boca Juniors 200. Boca Juniors 201. Boca Juniors 202. Boca Juniors 203. Boca Juniors 204. Boca Juniors 205. Boca Juniors 206. Boca Juniors 207. Boca Juniors 208. Boca Juniors 209. Boca Juniors 210. Boca Juniors 211. Boca Juniors 212. Boca Juniors 213. Boca Juniors 214. Boca Juniors 215. Boca Juniors 216. Boca Juniors 217. Boca Juniors 218. Boca Juniors 219. Boca Juniors 220. Boca Juniors 221. Boca Juniors 222. Boca Juniors 223. Boca Juniors 224. Boca Juniors 225. Boca Juniors 226. Boca Juniors 227. Boca Juniors 228. Boca Juniors 229. Boca Juniors 230. Boca Juniors 231. Boca Juniors 232. Boca Juniors 233. Boca Juniors 234. Boca Juniors 235. Boca Juniors 236. Boca Juniors 237. Boca Juniors 238. Boca Juniors 239. Boca Juniors 240. Boca Juniors 241. Boca Juniors 242. Boca Juniors 243. Boca Juniors 244. Boca Juniors 245. Boca Juniors 246. Boca Juniors 247. Boca Juniors 248. Boca Juniors 249. Boca Juniors 250. Boca Juniors 251. Boca Juniors 252. Boca Juniors 253. Boca Juniors 254. Boca Juniors 255. Boca Juniors 256. Boca Juniors 257. Boca Juniors 258. Boca Juniors 259. Boca Juniors 260. Boca Juniors 261. Boca Juniors 262. Boca Juniors 263. Boca Juniors 264. Boca Juniors 265. Boca Juniors 266. Boca Juniors 267. Boca Juniors 268. Boca Juniors 269. Boca Juniors 270. Boca Juniors 271. Boca Juniors 272. Boca Juniors 273. Boca Juniors 274. Boca Juniors 275. Boca Juniors 276. Boca Juniors 277. Boca Juniors 278. Boca Juniors 279. Boca Juniors 280. Boca Juniors 281. Boca Juniors 282. Boca Juniors 283. Boca Juniors 284. Boca Juniors 285. Boca Juniors 286. Boca Juniors 287. Boca Juniors 288. Boca Juniors 289. Boca Juniors 290. Boca Juniors 291. Boca Juniors 292. Boca Juniors 293. Boca Juniors 294. Boca Juniors 295. Boca Juniors 296. Boca Juniors 297. Boca Juniors 298. Boca Juniors 299. Boca Juniors 300. Boca Juniors 301. Boca Juniors 302. Boca Juniors 303. Boca Juniors 304. Boca Juniors 305. Boca Juniors 306. Boca Juniors 307. Boca Juniors 308. Boca Juniors 309. Boca Juniors 310. Boca Juniors 311. Boca Juniors 312. Boca Juniors 313. Boca Juniors 314. Boca Juniors 315. Boca Juniors 316. Boca Juniors 317. Boca Juniors 318. Boca Juniors 319. Boca Juniors 320. Boca Juniors 321. Boca Juniors 322. Boca Juniors 323. Boca Juniors 324. Boca Juniors 325. Boca Juniors 326. Boca Juniors 327. Boca Juniors 328. Boca Juniors 329. Boca Juniors 330. Boca Juniors 331. Boca Juniors 332. Boca Juniors 333. Boca Juniors 334. Boca Juniors 335. Boca Juniors 336. Boca Juniors 337. Boca Juniors 338. Boca Juniors 339. Boca Juniors 340. Boca Juniors 341. Boca Juniors 342. Boca Juniors 343. Boca Juniors 344. Boca Juniors 345. Boca Juniors 346. Boca Juniors 347. Boca Juniors 348. Boca Juniors 349. Boca Juniors 350. Boca Juniors 351. Boca Juniors 352. Boca Juniors 353. Boca Juniors 354. Boca Juniors 355. Boca Juniors 356. Boca Juniors 357. Boca Juniors 358. Boca Juniors 359. Boca Juniors 360. Boca Juniors 361. Boca Juniors 362. Boca Juniors 363. Boca Juniors 364. Boca Juniors 365. Boca Juniors 366. Boca Juniors 367. Boca Juniors 368. Boca Juniors 369. Boca Juniors 370. Boca Juniors 371. Boca Juniors 372. Boca Juniors 373. Boca Juniors 374. Boca Juniors 375. Boca Juniors 376. Boca Juniors 377. Boca Juniors 378. Boca Juniors 379. Boca Juniors 380. Boca Juniors 381. Boca Juniors 382. Boca Juniors 383. Boca Juniors 384. Boca Juniors 385. Boca Juniors 386. Boca Juniors 387. Boca Juniors 388. Boca Juniors 389. Boca Juniors 390. Boca Juniors 391. Boca Juniors 392. Boca Juniors 393. Boca Juniors 394. Boca Juniors 395. Boca Juniors 396. Boca Juniors 397. Boca Juniors 398. Boca Juniors 399. Boca Juniors 400. Boca Juniors 401. Boca Juniors 402. Boca Juniors 403. Boca Juniors 404. Boca Juniors 405. Boca Juniors 406. Boca Juniors 407. Boca Juniors 408. Boca Juniors 409. Boca Juniors 410. Boca Juniors 411. Boca Juniors 412. Boca Juniors 413. Boca Juniors 414. Boca Juniors 415. Boca Juniors 416. Boca Juniors 417. Boca Juniors 418. Boca Juniors 419. Boca Juniors 420. Boca Juniors 421. Boca Juniors 422. Boca Juniors 423. Boca Juniors 424. Boca Juniors 425. Boca Juniors 426. Boca Juniors 427. Boca Juniors 428. Boca Juniors 429. Boca Juniors 430. Boca Juniors 431. Boca Juniors 432. Boca Juniors 433. Boca Juniors 434. Boca Juniors 435. Boca Juniors 436. Boca Juniors 437. Boca Juniors 438. Boca Juniors 439. Boca Juniors 440. Boca Juniors 441. Boca Juniors 442. Boca Juniors 443. Boca Juniors 444. Boca Juniors 445. Boca Juniors 446. Boca Juniors 447. Boca Juniors 448. Boca Juniors 449. Boca Juniors 450. Boca Juniors 451. Boca Juniors 452. Boca Juniors 453. Boca Juniors 454. Boca Juniors 455. Boca Juniors 456. Boca Juniors 457. Boca Juniors 458. Boca Juniors 459. Boca Juniors 460. Boca Juniors 461. Boca Juniors 462. Boca Juniors 463. Boca Juniors 464. Boca Juniors 465. Boca Juniors 466. Boca Juniors 467. Boca Juniors 468. Boca Juniors 469. Boca Juniors 470. Boca Juniors 471. Boca Juniors 472. Boca Juniors 473. Boca Juniors 474. Boca Juniors 475. Boca Juniors 476. Boca Juniors 477. Boca Juniors 478. Boca Juniors 479. Boca Juniors 480. Boca Juniors 481. Boca Juniors 482. Boca Juniors 483. Boca Juniors 484. Boca Juniors 485. Boca Juniors 486. Boca Juniors 487. Boca Juniors 488. Boca Juniors 489. Boca Juniors 490. Boca Juniors 491. Boca Juniors 492. Boca Juniors 493. Boca Juniors 494. Boca Juniors 495. Boca Juniors 496. Boca Juniors 497. Boca Juniors 498. Boca Juniors 499. Boca Juniors 500. Boca Juniors 501. Boca Juniors 502. Boca Juniors 503. Boca Juniors 504. Boca Juniors 505. Boca Juniors 506. Boca Juniors 507. Boca Juniors 508. Boca Juniors 509. Boca Juniors 510. Boca Juniors 511. Boca Juniors 512. Boca Juniors 513. Boca Juniors 514. Boca Juniors 515. Boca Juniors 516. Boca Juniors 517. Boca Juniors 518. Boca Juniors 519. Boca Juniors 520. Boca Juniors 521. Boca Juniors 522. Boca Juniors 523. Boca Juniors 524. Boca Juniors 525. Boca Juniors 526. Boca Juniors 527. Boca Juniors 528. Boca Juniors 529. Boca Juniors 530. Boca Juniors 531. Boca Juniors 532. Boca Juniors 533. Boca Juniors 534. Boca Juniors 535. Boca Juniors 536. Boca Juniors 537. Boca Juniors 538. Boca Juniors 539. Boca Juniors 540. Boca Juniors 541. Boca Juniors 542. Boca Juniors 543. Boca Juniors 544. Boca Juniors 545. Boca Juniors 546. Boca Juniors 547. Boca Juniors 548. Boca Juniors 549. Boca Juniors 550. Boca Juniors 551. Boca Juniors 552. Boca Juniors 553. Boca Juniors 554. Boca Juniors 555. Boca Juniors 556. Boca Juniors 557. Boca Juniors 558. Boca Juniors 559. Boca Juniors 560. Boca Juniors 561. Boca Juniors 562. Boca Juniors 563. Boca Juniors 564. Boca Juniors 565. Boca Juniors 566. Boca Juniors 567. Boca Juniors 568. Boca Juniors 569. Boca Juniors 570. Boca Juniors 571. Boca Juniors 572. Boca Juniors 573. Boca Juniors 574. Boca Juniors 575. Boca Juniors 576. Boca Juniors 577. Boca Juniors 578. Boca Juniors 579. Boca Juniors 580. Boca Juniors 581. Boca Juniors 582. Boca Juniors 583. Boca Juniors 584. Boca Juniors 585. Boca Juniors 586. Boca Juniors 587. Boca Juniors 588. Boca Juniors 589. Boca Juniors 590. Boca Juniors 591. Boca Juniors 592. Boca Juniors 593. Boca Juniors 594. Boca Juniors 595. Boca Juniors 596. Boca Juniors 597. Boca Juniors 598. Boca Juniors 599. Boca Juniors 600. Boca Juniors 601. Boca Juniors 602. Boca Juniors 603. Boca Juniors 604. Boca Juniors 605. Boca Juniors 606. Boca Juniors 607. Boca Juniors 608. Boca Juniors 609. Boca Juniors 610. Boca Juniors 611. Boca Juniors 612. Boca Juniors 613. Boca Juniors 614. Boca Juniors 615. Boca Juniors 616. Boca Juniors 617. Boca Juniors 618. Boca Juniors 619. Boca Juniors 620. Boca Juniors 621. Boca Juniors 622. Boca Juniors 623. Boca Juniors 624. Boca Juniors 625. Boca Juniors 626. Boca Juniors 627. Boca Juniors 628. Boca Juniors 629. Boca Juniors 630. Boca Juniors 631. Boca Juniors 632. Boca Juniors 633. Boca Juniors 634. Boca Juniors 635. Boca Juniors 636. Boca Juniors 637. Boca Juniors 638. Boca Juniors 639. Boca Juniors 640. Boca Juniors 641. Boca Juniors 642. Boca Juniors 643. Boca Juniors 644. Boca Juniors 645. Boca Juniors 646. Boca Juniors 647. Boca Juniors 648. Boca Juniors 649. Boca Juniors 650. Boca Juniors 651. Boca Juniors 652. Boca Juniors 653. Boca Juniors 654. Boca Juniors 655. Boca Juniors 656. Boca Juniors 657. Boca Juniors 658. Boca Juniors 659. Boca Juniors 660. Boca Juniors 661. Boca Juniors 662. Boca Juniors 663. Boca Juniors 664. Boca Juniors 665. Boca Juniors 666. Boca Juniors 667. Boca Juniors 668. Boca Juniors 669. Boca Juniors 670. Boca Juniors 671. Boca Juniors 672. Boca Juniors 673. Boca Juniors 674. Boca Juniors 675. Boca Juniors 676. Boca Juniors 677. Boca Juniors 678. Boca Juniors 679. Boca Juniors 680. Boca Juniors 681. Boca Juniors 682. Boca Juniors 683. Boca Juniors 684. Boca Juniors 685. Boca Juniors 686. Boca Juniors 687. Boca Juniors 688. Boca Juniors 689. Boca Juniors 690. Boca Juniors 691. Boca Juniors 692. Boca Juniors 693. Boca Juniors 694. Boca Juniors 695. Boca Juniors 696. Boca Juniors 697. Boca Juniors 698. Boca Juniors 699. Boca Juniors 700. Boca Juniors 701. Boca Juniors 702. Boca Juniors 703. Boca Juniors 704. Boca Juniors 705. Boca Juniors 706. Boca Juniors 707. Boca Juniors 708. Boca Juniors 709. Boca Juniors 710. Boca Juniors 711. Boca Juniors 712. Boca Juniors 713. Boca Juniors 714. Boca Juniors 715. Boca Juniors 716. Boca Juniors 717. Boca Juniors 718. Boca Juniors 719. Boca Juniors 720. Boca Juniors 721. Boca Juniors 722. Boca Juniors 723. Boca Juniors 724. Boca Juniors 725. Boca Juniors 726. Boca Juniors 727. Boca Juniors 728. Boca Juniors 729. Boca Juniors 730. Boca Juniors 731. Boca Juniors 732. Boca Juniors 733. Boca Juniors 734. Boca Juniors 735. Boca Juniors 736. Boca Juniors 737. Boca Juniors 738. Boca Juniors 739. Boca Juniors 740. Boca Juniors 741. Boca Juniors 742. Boca Juniors 743. Boca Juniors 744. Boca Juniors 745. Boca Juniors 746. Boca Juniors 747. Boca Juniors 748. Boca Juniors 749. Boca Juniors 750. Boca Juniors 751. Boca Juniors 752. Boca Juniors 753. Boca Juniors 754. Boca Juniors 755. Boca Juniors 756. Boca Juniors 757. Boca Juniors 758. Boca Juniors 759. Boca Juniors 760. Boca Juniors 761. Boca Juniors 762. Boca Juniors 763. Boca Juniors 764. Boca Juniors 765. Boca Juniors 766. Boca Juniors 767. Boca Juniors 768. Boca Juniors 769. Boca Juniors 770. Boca Juniors 771. Boca Juniors 772. Boca Juniors 773. Boca Juniors 774. Boca Juniors 775. Boca Juniors 776. Boca Juniors 777. Boca Juniors 778. Boca Juniors 779. Boca Juniors 780. Boca Juniors 781. Boca Juniors 782. Boca Juniors 783. Boca Juniors 784. Boca Juniors 785. Boca Juniors 786. Boca Juniors 787. Boca Juniors 788. Boca Juniors 789. Boca Juniors 790. Boca Juniors 791. Boca Juniors 792. Boca Juniors 793. Boca Juniors 794. Boca Juniors 795. Boca Juniors 796. Boca Juniors 797. Boca Juniors 798. Boca Juniors 799. Boca Juniors 800. Boca Juniors 801. Boca Juniors 802. Boca Juniors 803. Boca Juniors 804. Boca Juniors 805. Boca Juniors 806. Boca Juniors 807. Boca Juniors 808. Boca Juniors 809. Boca Juniors 810. Boca Juniors 811. Boca Juniors 812. Boca Juniors 813. Boca Juniors 814. Boca Juniors 815. Boca Juniors 816. Boca Juniors 817. Boca Juniors 818. Boca Juniors 819. Boca Juniors 820. Boca Juniors 821. Boca Juniors 822. Boca Juniors 823. Boca Juniors 824. Boca Juniors 825. Boca Juniors 826. Boca Juniors 827. Boca Juniors 828. Boca Juniors 829. Boca Juniors 830. Boca Juniors 831. Boca Juniors 832. Boca Juniors 833. Boca Juniors 834. Boca Juniors 835. Boca Juniors 836. Boca Juniors 837. Boca Juniors 838. Boca Juniors 839. Boca Juniors 840. Boca Juniors 841. Boca Juniors 842. Boca Juniors 843. Boca Juniors 844. Boca Juniors 845. Boca Juniors 846. Boca Juniors 847. Boca Juniors 848. Boca Juniors 849. Boca Juniors 850. Boca Juniors 851. Boca Juniors 852. Boca Juniors 853. Boca Juniors 854. Boca Juniors 855. Boca Juniors 856. Boca Juniors 857. Boca Juniors 858. Boca Juniors 859. Boca Juniors 860. Boca Juniors 861. Boca Juniors 862. Boca Juniors 863. Boca Juniors 864. Boca Juniors 865. Boca Juniors 866. Boca Juniors 867. Boca Juniors 868. Boca Juniors 869. Boca Juniors 870. Boca Juniors 871. Boca Juniors 872. Boca Juniors 873. Boca Juniors 874. Boca Juniors 875. Boca Juniors 876. Boca Juniors 877. Boca Juniors 878. Boca Juniors 879. Boca Juniors 880. Boca Juniors 881. Boca Juniors 882. Boca Juniors 883. Boca Juniors 884. Boca Juniors 885. Boca Juniors 886. Boca Juniors 887. Boca Juniors 888. Boca Juniors 889. Boca Juniors 890. Boca Juniors 891. Boca Juniors 892. Boca Juniors 893. Boca Juniors 894. Boca Juniors 895. Boca Juniors 896. Boca Juniors 897. Boca Juniors 898. Boca Juniors 899. Boca Juniors 900. Boca Juniors 901. Boca Juniors 902. Boca Juniors 903. Boca Juniors 904. Boca Juniors 905. Boca Juniors 906. Boca Juniors 907. Boca Juniors 908. Boca Juniors 909. Boca Juniors 910. Boca Juniors 911. Boca Juniors 912. Boca Juniors 913. Boca Juniors 914. Boca Juniors 915. Boca Juniors 916. Boca Juniors 917. Boca Juniors 918. Boca Juniors 919. Boca Juniors 920. Boca Juniors 921. Boca Juniors 922. Boca Juniors 923. Boca Juniors 924. Boca Juniors 925. Boca Juniors 926. Boca Juniors 927. Boca Juniors 928. Boca Juniors 929. Boca Juniors 930. Boca Juniors 931. Boca Juniors 932. Boca Juniors 933. Boca Juniors 934. Boca Juniors 935. Boca Juniors 936. Boca Juniors 937. Boca Juniors 938. Boca Juniors 939. Boca Juniors 940. Boca Juniors 941. Boca Juniors 942. Boca Juniors 943. Boca Juniors 944. Boca Juniors 945. Boca Juniors 946. Boca Juniors 947. Boca Juniors 948. Boca Juniors 949. Boca Juniors 950. Boca Juniors 951. Boca Juniors 952. Boca Juniors 953. Boca Juniors 954. Boca Juniors 955. Boca Juniors 956. Boca Juniors 957. Boca Juniors 958. Boca Juniors 959. Boca Juniors 960. Boca Juniors 961. Boca Juniors 962. Boca Juniors 963. Boca Juniors 964. Boca Juniors 965. Boca Juniors 966. Boca Juniors 967. Boca Juniors 968. Boca Juniors 969. Boca Juniors 970. Boca Juniors 971. Boca Juniors 972. Boca Juniors 973. Boca Juniors 974. Boca Juniors 975. Boca Juniors 976. Boca Juniors 977. Boca Juniors 978. Boca Juniors 979. Boca Juniors 980. Boca Juniors 981. Boca Juniors 982. Boca Juniors 983. Boca Juniors 984. Boca Juniors 985. Boca Juniors 986. Boca Juniors 987. Boca Juniors 988. Boca Juniors 989. Boca Juniors 990. Boca Juniors 991. Boca Juniors 992. Boca Juniors 993. Boca Juniors 994. Boca Juniors 995. Boca Juniors 996. Boca Juniors 997. Boca Juniors 998. Boca Juniors 999. Boca Juniors 1000. Boca Juniors 1001. Boca Juniors 1002. Boca Juniors 1003. Boca Juniors 1004. Boca Juniors 1005. Boca Juniors 1006. Boca Juniors 1007. Boca Juniors 1008. Boca Juniors 1009. Boca Juniors 1010. Boca Juniors 1011. Boca Juniors 1012. Boca Juniors 1013. Boca Juniors 1014. Boca Juniors 1015. Boca Juniors 1016. Boca Juniors 1017. Boca Juniors 1018. Boca Juniors 1019. Boca Juniors 102

RACING: SUSPECTED CRACKED PASTER LEAVES MARTHA'S SON EARLY CASUALTY AT HUNTINGDON

One Man's talent shines through gloom

By CHRIS McGRATH

JUST as the burnished talent of One Man shone all the brighter for a dank, murky afternoon in the fens, so the crowds at Huntingdon yesterday were reminded that National Hunt's most glorious flourish must defy the darkest gloom.

After Martha's Son broke down badly in the early stages of the Peterborough Chase, they knew at once the poignant conundrum of the sport. It is the awful perils of the hunt that define the grandeur of its triumphs.

Martha's Son was suddenly stricken after the fourth fence, Rodney Farrant immediately sensing something amiss with his mount's vulnerable neck. It was a tendon injury to the same leg that had thwarted Martha's Son for so long prior to his heroic comeback in the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham in

RICHARD EVANS

Naze Calm Down

(110 Windsor)

The well-regarded Calm Down, shaped plenty of promising youngsters and is expected to produce this term. Sited at the top of the list, he can make a winning impression.

NB: Eau De Cologne

(3.40 Windsor)

March. Early indications were that this time the vets may be confronted by a cracked pastern — which prognosis Tim Forster, his notoriously pessimistic trainer, could indulge himself by describing as relatively "good news".

Nobody understands better than Gordon Richards the humility Forster feels regarding his magnificent charges. The winning trainer's first thoughts were of Martha's Son, whose mishap had reduced the race to a match between One Man and Viking Flagship. "May the best horse win, that's the way I like to play it," he said. "This was a day for us to find out about him, and it's very sad about Martha's Son."

It was still a rare contest for this time of the season, though Viking Flagship had all but rolled out the red carpet at halfway. It took the dexterity of a mountain goat for Adrian



The grey One Man blazes the trail with subsequent faller The Last Fling en route to victory in the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon yesterday

Maguire's mount to sidestep The Last Fling, whose company for One Man put front had ended in a sprawl at the ninth fence.

The Moreyouknow (200-1) was already affirming his irrelevance, tailed off — though his amateur rider, Michael Harris, gave the race a postscript that was in the circumstances particularly distasteful, earning a 14-day

suspension for persevering with a lame horse.

At any rate, the race was effectively down to three — and Camitrov was soon left behind as Maguire responded to Richard Dunwoody's sudden extra thrust on One Man in the back straight.

"Before the final ditch, I turned to Adrian and asked where Martha's Son was," Dunwoody said. "Without

needing to worry about that horse's foot, I didn't want to get into a long-drawn struggle with Viking Flagship, which would suit him down to the ground."

With his mount dropping back in trip, Dunwoody duly played his cards aggressively. Now the compelling question was whether the tenacious Viking Flagship could ex-

amine the alleged fragility, off the

bridle, of the Cumbrian champion.

He could not. The leap One Man produced two out had a shattering effect on Viking Flagship, who confirmed his broken spirit with a tired jump at the last. It only remained for the grey, yet again, to shorten his stride in the closing stages, despite being ridden out.

"He knew he'd done the job, he was having a look and

pricking his ears," Richards said.

On a sharp course, he will have already won his race before this characteristic wobble, probably regardless of the trip. But one suspects that Richards would prefer to avoid the Cheltenham hill at any distance. The horse has folded abjectly in the last two Gold Cups, and could yet do the same even over the two miles of the Champion Chase.

But the horse's owner, John Hales, is evidently not of like mind. William Hill opened a book on the race, offering just 5-2 against Strong Promise, 7-2 against One Man and 9-2 against Viking Flagship.

Either way, One Man now goes to Kempton to seek a third consecutive King George VI Chase. Viking Flagship might conceivably step up in trip there, but is more likely to wait for One Man on his own patch, back at Cheltenham.

Police investigates doping cases

THE Jockey Club yesterday confirmed that officers from Scotland Yard are involved in the investigation into alleged doping of two horses in the spring. The inquiries centre around the Josh Clifford-trained Lively Knight and Avant Express, trained by Charles Egeston, who both tested positive after running lacklustre races in defeat.

Avant Express drifted from 5-4 on to 5-4 before being pulled up at Exeter on March 7, while Lively Knight failed to

land odds of 7-1 on in a three-runner race at Plumpton three weeks later.

Jockey Club officials last month confirmed that both horses had tested positive with a drug believed to be acetylpromazine, a tranquilliser.

Christopher Foster, executive director of the Jockey Club, reported that Scotland Yard had been involved in the inquiry for some time.

"We confirm that after additional investigations by the Jockey Club security department into the positive reports on Avant Express and Lively Knight into their running on March 7 and March 20 respectively, evidence of criminal activity was revealed. As a result the matter was passed to the police some months ago and we are working closely on this," he said.

Foster stressed the high standard of the security staff employed by the Jockey Club but admitted they could only go so far in dealing with criminals.

Avant Express and Lively Knight into their running on March 7 and March 20 respectively, evidence of criminal activity was revealed. As a result the matter was passed to the police some months ago and we are working closely on this," he said.

Foster stressed the high standard of the security staff employed by the Jockey Club but admitted they could only go so far in dealing with criminals.

Avant Express and Lively Knight into their running on March 7 and March 20 respectively, evidence of criminal activity was revealed. As a result the matter was passed to the police some months ago and we are working closely on this," he said.

Foster stressed the high standard of the security staff employed by the Jockey Club but admitted they could only go so far in dealing with criminals.

12.40 Calm Down, 1.10 Rupert Blues, 1.40 Master Bomber, 2.10 Easter Hares, 2.40 Who's To Say, 3.10 Shepherd Star, 3.40 Ivor's Flutter.

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.10 SURSUM CORDA.

GOING: GOOD

TOTE CUPPOT MEETINGS

SIS

12.40 EVERETT MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.101.102.103.104.105.106.107.108.109.110.111.112.113.114.115.116.117.118.119.120.121.122.123.124.125.126.127.128.129.130.131.132.133.134.135.136.137.138.139.140.141.142.143.144.145.146.147.148.149.150.151.152.153.154.155.156.157.158.159.160.161.162.163.164.165.166.167.168.169.170.171.172.173.174.175.176.177.178.179.180.181.182.183.184.185.186.187.188.189.190.191.192.193.194.195.196.197.198.199.200.201.202.203.204.205.206.207.208.209.210.211.212.213.214.215.216.217.218.219.220.221.222.223.224.225.226.227.228.229.230.231.232.233.234.235.236.237.238.239.240.241.242.243.244.245.246.247.248.249.250.251.252.253.254.255.256.257.258.259.260.261.262.263.264.265.266.267.268.269.270.271.272.273.274.275.276.277.278.279.280.281.282.283.284.285.286.287.288.289.290.291.292.293.294.295.296.297.298.299.300.301.302.303.304.305.306.307.308.309.310.311.312.313.314.315.316.317.318.319.320.321.322.323.324.325.326.327.328.329.330.331.332.333.334.335.336.337.338.339.340.341.342.343.344.345.346.347.348.349.350.351.352.353.354.355.356.357.358.359.360.361.362.363.364.365.366.367.368.369.370.371.372.373.374.375.376.377.378.379.380.381.382.383.384.385.386.387.388.389.390.391.392.393.394.395.396.397.398.399.400.401.402.403.404.405.406.407.408.409.410.411.412.413.414.415.416.417.418.419.420.421.422.423.424.425.426.427.428.429.430.431.432.433.434.435.436.437.438.439.440.441.442.443.444.445.446.447.448.449.450.451.452.453.454.455.456.457.458.459.460.461.462.463.464.465.466.467.468.469.470.471.472.473.474.475.476.477.478.479.480.481.482.483.484.485.486.487.488.489.490.491.492.493.494.495.496.497.498.499.500.501.502.503.504.505.506.507.508.509.510.511.512.513.514.515.516.517.518.519.520.521.522.523.524.525.526.527.528.529.530.531.532.533.534.535.536.537.538.539.540.541.542.543.544.545.546.547.548.549.550.551.552.553.554.555.556.557.558.559.560.561.562.563.564.565.566.567.568.569.570.571.572.573.574.575.576.577.578.579.580.581.582.583.584.585.586.587.588.589.590.591.592.593.594.595.596.597.598.599.600.601.602.603.604.605.606.607.608.609.610.611.612.613.614.615.616.617.618.619.620.621.622.623.624.625.626.627.628.629.630.631.632.633.634.635.636.637.638.639.640.641.642.643.644.645.646.647.648.649.650.651.652.653.654.655.656.657.658.659.660.661.662.663.664.665.666.667.668.669.670.671.672.673.674.675.676.677.678.679.680.681.682.683.684.685.686.687.688.689.690.691.692.693.694.695.696.697.698.699.700.701.702.703.704.705.706.707.708.709.710.711.712.713.714.715.716.717.718.719.720.721.722.723.724.725.726.727.728.729.730.731.732.733.734.735.736.737.738.739.740.741.742.743.744.745.746.747.748.749.750.751.752.753.754.755.756.757.758.759.760.761.762.763.764.765.766.767.768.769.770.771.772.773.774.775.776.777.778.779.780.781.782.783.784.785.786.787.788.789.790.791.792.793.794.795.796.797.798.799.800.801.802.803.804.805.806.807.808.809.810.811.812.813.814.815.816.817.818.819.820.821.822.823.824.825.826.827.828.829.830.831.832.833.834.835.836.837.838.839.840.841.842.843.844.845.846.847.848.849.850.851.852.853.854.855.856.857.858.859.860.861.862.863.864.865.866.867.868.869.870.871.872.873.874.875.876.877.878.879.880.881.882.883.884.885.886.887.888.889.890.891.892.893.894.895.896.897.898.899.900.901.902.903.904.905.906.907.908.909.910.911.912.913.914.915.916.917.918.919.920.921.922.923.924.925.926.927.928.929.930.931.932.933.934.935.936.937.938.939.940.941.942.943.944.945.946.947.948.949.950.951.952.953.954.955.956.957.958.959.960.961.962.963.964.965.966.967.968.969.970.971.972.973.974.975.976.977.978.979.980.981.982.983.984.985.986.987.988.989.990.991.992.993.994.995.996.997.998.999.1000.

1.10 EVERETT MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.101.102.103.104.105.106.107.108.109.110.111.112.113.114.115.116.117.118.119.120.121.122.123.124.125.126.127.128.129.130.131.132.133.134.135.136.137.138.139.140.141.142.143.144.145.146.147.148.149.150.151.152.153.154.155.156.157.158.159.160.161.162.163.164.165.166.167.168.169.170.171.172.173.174.175.176.177.178.179.180.181.182.183.184.185.186.187.188.189.190.191.192.193.194.195.196.197.198.199.200.201.202.203.204.205.206.207.208.209.210.211.212.213.214.215.216.217.218.219.220.221.222.223.224.225.226.227.228.229.230.231.232.233.234.235.236.237.238.239.240.241.242.243.244.245.246.247.248.249.250.251.252.253.254.255.256.257.258.259.260.261.262.263.264.265.266.267.268.269.270.271.272.273.274.275.276.277.278.279.280.281.282.283.284.285.286.287.288.289.290.291.292.293.294.295.296.297.298.299.300.301.302.303.304.305.306.307.308.309.310.311.312.313.314.315.316.317.318.319.320.321.322.323.324.325.326.327.328.329.330.331.332.333.334.335.336.337.338.339.340.341.342.343.344.345.346.347.348.349.350.351.352.353.354.355.356.357.358.359.360.361.362.363.364.365.366.367.368.369.370.371.372.373.374.375.376.377.378.379.380.381.382.383.384.385.386.387.388.389.390.391.392.393.394.395.396.397.398.399.400.401.402.403.404.405.406.407.408.409.410.411.412.413.414.415.416.417.418.419.420.421.422.423.424.425.426.427.428.429.430.431.432.433.434.435.436.437.438.439.440.441.442.443.444.445.446.447.448.449.450.451.452.453.454.455.456.457.458.459.460.461.462.463.464.465.466.467.468.469.470.471.472.473.474.475.476.477.478.479.480.481.482.483.484.485.486.487.488.489.490.491.492.493.494.495.496.497.498.499.500.501.502.503.504.505.506.507.508.509.510.511.512.513.514.515.516.517.518.519.520.521.522.523.524.525.526.527.528.529.530.531.532.533.534.535.536.537.538.539.540.541.542.543.544.545.546.547.548.549.550.551.552.553.554.555.556.557.558.559.560.561.562.563.564.565.566.567.568.569.570.571.572.573.574.575.576.577.578.579.580.581.582.583.584.585.586.587.588.589.590.591.592.593.594.595.596.597.598.599.600.601.602.603.604.605.606.607.608.609.610.611.612.613.614.615.616.617.618.619.620.621.622.623.624.625.626.627.628.629.630.631.632.633.634.635.636.637.638.639.640.641.642.643.644.645.646.647.648.649.650.651.652.653.654.655.656.657.658.659.660.661.662.663.664.665.666.667.668.669.670.671.672.673.674.675.676.677.678.679.680.681.682.683.684.685.686.687.688.689.690.691.692.693.694.695.696.697.698.699.700.701.702.703.704.705.706.707.708.709.710.711.712.713.714.715.716.717.718.719.720.721.722.723.724.725.726.727.728.729.730.731.732.733.734.735.736.737.738.739.740.741.742.743.744.745.746.747.748.749.750.751.752.753.754.755.756.757.758.759.760.761.762.763.764.765.766.767.768.769.770.771.772.773.774.775.776.777.778.779.780.781.782.783.784.785.786.787.788.789.790.791.792.793.794.795.796.797.798.799.800.801.802.803.804.805.806.807.808.809.810.811.812.813.814.815.816.817.818.819.820.821.822.823.824.825.826.827.828.829.830.831.832.833.834.835.836.837.838.839.840.841.842.843.844.845.846.847.848.849.850.851.852.853.854.855.856.857.858.859.860.861.862.863.864.865.866.867.868.869.870.871.872.873.874.875.876.877.878.879.880.881.882.883.884.885.886.887.888.889.890.891.892.893.894.895.896.897.898.899.900.901.902.903.904.905.906.907.908.909.910.911.912.913.914.915.916.917.918.919.920.921.922.923.924.925.926.927.928.929.930.931.932.933.934.935.936.937.938.939.940.941.942.943.944.945.946.947.948.949.950.951.952.953.954.955.956.957.958.959.960.961.962.963.964.965.966.967.968.969.970.971.972.973.974.975.976.977.978.979.980.981.982.983.984.985.986.987.988.989.990.991.992.993.994.995.996.997.998.999.1000.

1.40 RACING FOR LIFE MARSHALL AMPLIFICATION

NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31.32.33.34.35.36.37.38.39.40.41.42.43.44.45.46.47.48.49.50.51.52.53.54.55.56.57.58.59.60.61.62.63.64.65.66.67.68.69.70.71.72.73.74.75.76.77.78.79.80.81.82.83.84.85.86.87.88.89.90.91.92.93.94.95.96.97.98.99.100.101.102.103.104.105.106.107.108.109.110.111.112.113.114.115.116.117.118.119.120.121.122.123.124.125.126.127.128.129.130.131.132.133.134.135.136.137.138.139.140.141.142.143.144.145.146.147.148.149.150.151.152.153.154.155.156.157.158.159.160.161.162.163.164.165.166.167.168.169.170.171.172.173.174.175.176.177.178.179.180.181.182.183.184.185.186.187.188.189.190.191.192.193.194.195.196.197.198.199.200.201.202.203.204.205.206.207.208.209.210.211.212.213.214.215.216.217.218.219.220.221.222.223.224.225.226.227.228.229.230.231.232.233.234.235.236.237.238.239.240.241.242.243.244.245.246.247.248.249.250.251.252.253.254.255.256.257.258.259.260.261.262.263.264.265.266.267.268.269.270.271.272.273.274.275.276.277.278.279.280.281.282.283.284.285.286.287.288.289.290.291.292.293.294.295.296.297.298.299.300.301.302.303.304.305.306.307.308.309.310.311.312.313.314.315.316.317.318.319.320.321.322.323.324.325.326.327.328.329.330.331.332.333.334.335.336.337.338.339.340.341.342.343.344.34

Leicester ready to move for Sinclair

By Richard Hobson

MARTIN O'NEILL, the Leicester City manager, is preparing to double the club's transfer record by bringing Trevor Sinclair to Filbert Street. He has confirmed his interest in the Queens Park Rangers winger and will submit a formal bid in the region of £3.5 million when the managerial vacancy at Loftus Road is filled.

Sinclair, 24, appeared in the England squad under Terry Venables (without making his debut), and is at the stage of his career where he needs to play in the FA Carling Premiership to further his case for international recognition.

QPR rejected a £4 million offer from Tottenham Hotspur last season and Stewart Houston, then manager, reiterated last summer that he would not sell the club's biggest asset. However, Houston's replacement — the side is managed on a caretaker basis by John Hollins at present — will be told that any money for new signings must be generated from within, and may decide to capitalise on Sinclair.

Tom Smeaton, the Leicester chairman, has promised O'Neill £6 million for players after the club's flotation. While O'Neill has been successful in plucking relatively low-profile players such as Matt Elliott, Neil Lennon and Steve Guppy from beneath the top flight, as well as Muzzy Izzet from the Chelsea reserves, he believes that he must change that if Leicester are to push on.

"We have to be looking at bringing realistic players to the club," O'Neill said. "We have earned the right to try to take it that stage further. Things have gone remarkably well this season, but to give that extra push some impetus, it means quality players."

Rob Jones, the Liverpool defender, is struggling to be fit to face Arsenal at Highbury on Sunday. Jones missed the 1-0 home Premiership defeat by Barnsley last weekend with Achilles problems, but is determined to return for the Arsenal game and the next match against Manchester United.

If Jones does recover in time, it will give Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, a tough selection decision to make after Jason McAteer's positive display against Barnsley. Mark Wright, the former England defender, is close to full fitness after the back injury that has kept him on the sidelines for so long, but Evans is unlikely to make many changes from the side that faced Barnsley, with both Paul Ince and Robbie Fowler still suspended.

Dalglish seeks to exploit Barcelona's troubles in Champions' League

Van Gaal's slide gives Newcastle hope

FROM DAVID MADDOCK IN BARCELONA

IT WAS a beautiful moment. The tour guide, on the journey from airport to hotel, was almost a caricature in his gushing praise of everything English. "We'd like your Meester Bobbee Robsen very much," he said. "More than the present person." He was, of course, a Barcelona fan and in praising the past coach of the Catalan club, he exposed an uncomfortable truth that has undermined the regime at the Nou Camp.

Newcastle United visit Barcelona in the Champions' League tonight with little at stake but money for old points and a mathematical possibility of qualifying for the quarter-final stage of the European Cup.

If there is any real North-East interest in this tie, then it is in the shape of Bobby Robson, a Geordie who has wandered far from home. He is still at Barcelona, despite being replaced as coach by Louis van Gaal, the man who masterminded a transformation of modern football with

Jaume Sabreque, an ally of Nuñez, said. "If the team continues to play in this way, we will lose more matches than we will win."

It is a situation that Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, hopes to exploit. The English club has treated this visit to Spain as the ultimate confirmation of its newfound status as an English superpower. Freddie Shepherd, the incoming chairman, was almost starry-eyed as he discussed the trip at Newcastle airport yesterday.

"It is a dream come true really," he said. "To go to the Nou Camp stadium is a great thing for Newcastle United and if I do anything in my new role as chairman, then it must be to ensure that we have more games like this one."

Yet Dalglish is over the realist. He was happy to acknowledge the history and tradition of Barcelona and its significance for his club, but it was more recent events that dominated his thoughts. "Their results have not been too good and the biggest surprise is that they've only got one point in the Champions' League," he said. "The biggest problem is that they've got a new coach and it could just be a little bit of a transition period. The players have made it quite clear that they don't agree with the coach's tactics and that is a situation that might just help us."

Dalglish managed a rare smile as he considered Barcelona's injury problems — they will have nine men absent — but Newcastle have similar difficulties of their own. Faustino Asprilla is still not fit to play, Robert Lee has a virus and is doubtful and Shay Given sustained an injury in training on Monday. With Keith Gillespie suspended, Newcastle will again have a scratch look about their line-up, with John Barnes employed as a temporary centre forward.

But there is something at stake for Newcastle and Dalglish and it is not just the money, as Dalglish explained. "Every point we get brings more money to the club (£250,000 per point), but we go into every game wanting to win for our pride and our commitment," he said. "We won't even think about the qualifying situation. We will just go out there and do the best for the club and our supporters."



Asprilla, who is ruled out by injury, is in demand with autograph hunters on arrival in Barcelona yesterday

Robson's aspirations facing a double test

By Our Sports Staff

BRYAN ROBSON, the Middlesbrough manager, faces two matches in four days that he believes could make or break his side's season.

Middlesbrough, who are third in the Nationwide League first division, take on Nottingham Forest, the leaders, at the Riverside Stadium tonight, aiming to end a 24-year hoodoo, before another home match against West Bromwich Albion, the second-placed team, on Saturday.

Robson's confidence is lifted by the manner in which his team beat Swindon Town 2-1 at the County Ground on Saturday and although Middlesbrough are looking for their first win over Forest in the North East since 1973, the incentive lies in the prospect of going top of the table, on goals scored, should they win.

Robson said: "My players are in confident mood and they will rise to the challenge. They are on a roll and I think it is a great time for us to meet Nottingham Forest and West Brom, who are two of the better teams, in the same week. After our performance against Swindon, in which we showed resilience in a hard battle, these games will show us how far we have progressed and how far we will go this season."

"You have to take points off promotion rivals and my players are up for it. We showed tremendous character last season as the games built up towards the end of the season, and I can sense the same mood in the dressing room."

Robson has no fresh injury worries so is likely to name an unchanged team from the one that inflicted on Swindon their first home defeat of the season.

Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, could make one change to the side that beat Charlton 5-2 at the City Ground on Saturday, with Chris Bart-Williams replacing Ian Woan. For the captain, Colin Cooper, it will be a return to the club where he started his career.

Gross changes begin at Tottenham

By Matt Dickinson

COLD showers before breakfast, cross-country runs and naked swims across freezing lakes. Christian Gross stopped short just of including those in the new regime that began at Tottenham Hotspur yesterday, but one thing is clear: the hairdryer brigade at White Hart Lane may not last long.

After the depressingly familiar FA Carling Premiership defeat at home to Crystal Palace on Monday, the new manager outlined the demands that will ensure that if Spurs are to be relegated, they will at least go down fighting fit, tearing up the players' familiar, cosy timetable.

Players will now spend Friday nights, even for home games, in hotels, instead of at home Saturday nights in bed, rather than nightclubs, and Sunday mornings training instead of nursing hangovers. Oh, and they should prepare for afternoon skill sessions, routine in Europe, but long regarded by English players

as an affront to civil liberties, as Roy Hodgson found when he joined Blackburn Rovers. Rovers players, with the results to show for it, now boast of their unprecedented fitness under Hodgson, the former Switzerland national coach, who Gross has long admired. Fritz Schmid, Gross's assistant at Grasshoppers Zurich, has been recruited specifically as fitness instructor at Tottenham. "There were signs just from Monday night that some of the players have to have game fitness," Gross, who claimed to be impressed by his squad's mental strength, said. "I know they have conceded most of the goals later in the game."

"I am not coming to change everything in one week, but on the Continent, everyone must train the day after the game. It makes sense because the players feel better. The same with training twice a day. We will do it if it makes sense."

"The same with drinking, whatever the tradition is in this country. One beer after a game makes sense, but it is not good for a player to exaggerate anything."

The Tottenham players will stand or fall by their ability to match Gross's hunger. Attention inevitably turned to

David Ginola and Darren Anderton, the talented enigmas who symbolise the club's underachievement.

Of Anderton, Gross was sympathetic. "He is a great player for English football, and by playing well for Tottenham he has a good chance of being in the World Cup. But he has had a lot of injuries so, please, be patient with him."

Of the Frenchman, already written off in some quarters as "not his type", Gross said: "Ginola has to prove himself at Spurs and I am expecting more goals from him. I have told him he can get back in the French squad."

"I would not build a team around one player. Everybody has to work for the team. I will give everybody a chance to prove what he can do, what they are ready to give for Tottenham. They have to be proud to wear the Tottenham shirt. The crest is so important, that must be our symbol."

Everton and United will resume talks this week on a deal which would see Ward and Tiler complete permanent moves to Goodison Park with Graham Stuart, plus £500,000, going in exchange to United.

Michael Duberry could return after a two-month absence for Chelsea. The England Under-21 defender suffered an ankle injury during Chelsea's only home league defeat of the season so far, against Arsenal.

Graeme Le Saux, the England full back, has now returned to training after a month out with a dislocated elbow, but is not ready to play. The 1-0 defeat on Saturday away to Blackburn Rovers was Chelsea's fifth of the season in the league.

Gianfranco Zola, their Italy striker, said: "Everybody wants to beat us. It's like they're playing Manchester United or Liverpool and they are desperate to put one over on us."



Gross: more training

Bilic picks wrong tactic with Kendall

By Matt Dickinson

HOWARD KENDALL'S need to recruit players that he knows and trusts — the Everton manager is attempting to sign Mitch Ward and Carl Tiler from his former club, Sheffield United — was further emphasised by a public spat with Slaven Bilic yesterday.

As if the Everton manager was not beset by enough problems — his side is bottom of the FA Carling Premiership and without an away win since December — as they face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tonight, he found himself at loggerheads over tactics with one of his senior players. Bilic, a trained barrister and never one to keep his own counsel, has condemned Kendall's coaching methods, particularly the lack of defensive organisation at set-pieces, which has cost Everton recent defeats.

His outburst earned a swift rebuke yesterday, and Bilic, signed for £4.5 million this summer, before Kendall's arrival, may find his first-team place threatened if the manager can complete his intended signings. "Slaven is well paid to put his boots on, not to put the boot in," Kendall said. "We are at the bottom of the Premiership and in situations like this we all need to stick together. To say I am disappointed would be an understatement."

"The coaches and myself have certain ideas of how we do things. It is disappointing that we are conceding goals from set-pieces, but these methods have never failed me in the past. At the moment, we seem to have a half-and-half situation with certain players not believing we are doing things the right way."

Kendall is attempting to sign a replacement for Bilic in Tiler, whom he hired to Sheffield United from Aston Villa. Yesterday, however, he managed only to secure the loan signing of Ward, a versatile full back or midfielder player, who could play at Stamford Bridge tonight.

Everton and United will resume talks this week on a deal which would see Ward and Tiler complete permanent moves to Goodison Park with Graham Stuart, plus £500,000, going in exchange to United.

Michael Duberry could return after a two-month absence for Chelsea. The England Under-21 defender suffered an ankle injury during Chelsea's only home league defeat of the season so far, against Arsenal.

Graeme Le Saux, the England full back, has now returned to training after a month out with a dislocated elbow, but is not ready to play. The 1-0 defeat on Saturday away to Blackburn Rovers was Chelsea's fifth of the season in the league.

Gianfranco Zola, their Italy striker, said: "Everybody wants to beat us. It's like they're playing Manchester United or Liverpool and they are desperate to put one over on us."

"Who has the best football coverage on the Net?"

You can always catch the latest football news with LineOne, the UK's online and internet service. LineOne provides the most comprehensive sports service around, with stories and reports from Sky, leading newspapers and the best sources on the Internet. Whether it's World Cup news you want, or coverage of your favourite club, you will always have it at your fingertips.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210.

LineOne is the only service that gives you the best of both worlds. It's what you want to know.

FREE £10 BET

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards.

THIS TODAY 0800 44 40 40

(Minimum total investment per call £10 Over 18 only)

*Free bet is a £10 Correct Score bet on tonight's Barcelona v Newcastle match. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

William Hill

PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION WILLIAM HILL FOOTBALL RULES APPLY TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 288 952.

8/13 BARCELONA 5/2 DRAW NEWCASTLE 7/2	
Non Camp Stadium, Kick-off 7.45pm, Live on ITV	
CORRECT SCORE	DOUBLE RESULT
BARCELONA 0-0 NEWCASTLE 11/2	BARCELONA, BARCELONA 11/5
11/2 1-0 8/1	BARCELONA, DRAW 14/1
6/1 2-0 16/1	BARCELONA, NEWCASTLE 48/1
7/1 2-1 16/1	DRAW, BARCELONA 4/1
10/1 3-0 50/1	DRAW, DRAW 8/1
11/1 3-1 50/1	DRAW, NEWCASTLE 8/1
40/1 3-2 50/1	NEWCASTLE, BARCELONA 25/1
6/1 0-0 6/1	NEWCASTLE, DRAW 14/1
11/2 1-1 11/2	NEWCASTLE, NEWCASTLE 8/1
20/1 2-2 20/1	

FIRST GOALSCORER

4/1 RIVARDO (B)
5/1 PIZZ (B)
6/1 LUIS ENRIQUE (B)
7/1 ASPRIELLA (B)
8/1 TOMASSON (B)
9/1 JAMES (B)
10/1 CONIC (B)
14/1 AMER (B)
16/1 GILLESPIE (B)
16/1 CROFT (B)
25/1 BERNARDINI (B)
25/1 NO GOALSCORER

Other scores on request. Odds void if 2nd half not completed. Odds based on best choice. One bet only per caller.

BARCELONA V NEWCASTLE

WED 26TH NOVEMBER 7.30 PM

AS IT SHOULD BE

ITV 3

BRITAIN'S NEXT POPULAR BUTTON

www.itv.co.uk

SPORT IN BRIEF

Ireland lose Wood for game with Canada

RUGBY UNION: Keith Wood, the Ireland hooker and captain, is out of the team to play Canada at Lansdowne Road on Sunday because of ankle ligament damage sustained in the recent game against New Zealand. Brian O'Meara, the reserve scrum half, has also withdrawn after suffering a neck injury playing for his club, Cork Constitution, against Terenure College last Saturday.

Third for Wigan

RUGBY LEAGUE: Wigan Warriors have signed their third Australian player in two weeks. Robbie McCormack, the experienced Hunter Mariners hooker, who has agreed a 12-month contract, joins Tony Mestrov, from London Broncos, and Mark Bell, from Sydney St George, at Central Park.

Kulti doubtful

TENNIS: Nicklas Kulti, who is struggling with a chronic back injury, is doubtful for the Sweden team for the Davis Cup final against the United States in Linköping this weekend.

Walker on form

QUASSIE: Chris Walker, of England, set up a quarter-final clash with Rodney Eyles, the world open champion from Australia, as his return to form continued with a comfortable 15-11, 15-13 victory over Martin Heath, of Scotland, in the Qatar International.

Llewellyn wins sixtieth cap in team that shows five changes



Howley is excited at the prospect of taking on the All Blacks on Saturday. It will be only the second time that he has visited Wembley Stadium

Wales take positive approach

By MARK SOUSTER

IN MAKING five changes to the side that started against Tonga ten days ago, the Wales selectors have been able to strengthen their hand considerably for the meeting with New Zealand at Wembley on Saturday, a match that the All Blacks genuinely believe could be the hardest of their tour. Whether the additions will prove sufficient to topple New Zealand is another matter, but they will certainly give them cause for thought.

The inclusion of David Young and Gareth Llewellyn bolsters the pack, while Allan Bateman, Kevin Morgan and Robert Howley, a replacement against Tonga, highlight the comparative strength in depth that Wales have behind the scrum, from where Leigh Davies, Gareth Wyatt and Paul John are relegated to the replacements' bench.

At a press conference at Glamorgan cricket club yesterday, Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, also attempted to defuse a potential flashpoint when the All Blacks perform the haka. He is keen that there is no repeat of the eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation between Norm Hewitt and Richard Cockerill, the England hooker, at Old Trafford last Saturday. Wales would respect the tradition of the haka, Bowring said, but hostilities would be avoided if both teams lined up in their respective ten-metre line.

"If you do it either side of the halfway line, then it becomes too aggressive in its nature and you lose respect for it," Bowring said. Llewellyn wins his sixtieth cap after impressive performances in the two Wales A internationals this season, last year against the New Zealanders. The Harlequins lock,

who many people feel has flattered to deceive for too long, replaces Steve Moore, of Moseley, who is injured. For all his strengths in the lineout and scrum, Llewellyn knows more is expected of him in the loose. David Young missed the game with Tonga through injury, but now replaces Spencer John and wins his 23rd cap. His experience will "give our set-piece a solid base", Bowring said.

Howley's return was inevitable after his brief appearance against Tonga added zip to the Welsh performance. Having recovered from the shoulder injury that brought a premature end to his British Isles tour, Howley is relishing the challenge of pitting his talents against Justin Marshall, who is likely to be named again as the New Zealand captain. Howley who has been to Wembley only once, said:

"The atmosphere at Wembley will be electric. This is another chance to play against a world-class scrum half and will make up a bit for the sadness of missing out in South Africa."

With Bateman fit again to partner Scott Gibbs, the Wales midfield has the look of Fort Knox. In selecting the Richmond player, Bowring is hoping that his big-match temperament will give Wales an edge. "Allan's defensive qualities and his all-round game will be vital," the coach said. Morgan replaces his Pontypridd colleague, Wyatt, proof that when fit, he is first choice in a position where Wales have several options. The strength, on paper at least, of the Wales threequarters has not escaped New Zealand. Andrew Mehrtens, the All Blacks fly half, said last week that any side with Gibbs, Bateman,

Howley and Jenkins in its ranks cannot be taken lightly. Certainly there is an air of quiet confidence in a Wales camp that has drawn encouragement from England's performance on Saturday. "The game will be a milestone in the measurement of our development towards the 1999 World Cup," Bowring said. "It is still a learning time for us, but, since we last played New Zealand in 1995, we are fitter, stronger, more athletic and more determined. No one is underestimating the challenge, but we are approaching the game in a really positive manner."

Wales (New Zealand, at Wembley): K Morgan (Pontypridd); G Thomas (Gwent), A Bateman (Richmond), S Gibbs (Swansea), N Walker (Cardiff), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff), D Young (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Harlequins), M Healy (Llanelli), R Ap Dewi (Swansea), G Jones (Cardiff), captain, N Thomas (Bath), replacements: I Davies (Cardiff), Thomas (Swansea), P John (Pontypridd), S Williams (Cardiff), S John (Cardiff), J Humphreys (Cardiff).

Raising a glass to celebrate fine tradition

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

TRADITION in rugby union may not be what it was but at Grange Road today, a long-standing relationship reaches its fiftieth year when Cambridge University play a XV raised by Micky Steele-Bodger. In celebration, 250 people will dine at Robinson College this evening and will doubtless raise a glass to Light Blue hopes for the meeting with Oxford next month and to M. R. Steele-Bodger.

There are few things in the English game that Steele-Bodger has not done: capped nine times as a flanker before his career was wrecked by injury, international selector, English representative on the International Rugby Football Board, president of the Rugby Football Union and world-famous as president of the Barbarians.

He takes particular pleasure from his long-running support of his old university, where he studied to be a vet at Gonville and Caius College and, aged 22, first assembled the team that bears his name, in 1948. He was moved to do so by the even older fixture that Oxford University instituted against Major R. V. Stanley's XV in 1919, and his only stipulation was that every Steele-Bodger's XV game should be followed by a dinner.

"It was a bit of fun and I never thought it would reach 50," Steele-Bodger, 72, said yesterday. "When we reached 40, people thought that might be the end and this year it has

been particularly difficult because there are so many games on." Nevertheless, the usual mixture of former Blues, aspiring youngsters — whose aspirations often include a place at Cambridge's academic groves, as well as the sporting ones — and internationalists will line up against the university this afternoon in the penultimate match of this term before the teams for Twickenham are confirmed on Monday.

Pat Howard, Australia's centre on their recent tour, will form a potent half-back combination with the Argentina scrum half, Agustín Pichot, in a XV led by Steve Correll, the New Zealander recently resident at Cambridge and now playing for Richmond. England's under-21 commitments — London play the New Zealand Rugby News youth XV at Twickenham on Saturday and the "international" between the teams will be played at Newbury the following Friday — have forced the withdrawal of several potential players, but Steele-Bodger has seldom been short of willing helpers: his past teams have included six captains of the British Isles and 21 national captains, of whom one of his favourite memories is an illuminating performance in awful conditions by Phil Bennett, the former Llanelli and Wales fly half.

M. R. STEELE-BODGER'S XV: M Correll, P Howard, A Pichot, D Barnes, S Llewellyn, R Howley, R Jones, A Gibbs, R Thomas, M Healy, P Bowring.

Spat of injuries poses problem for Scotland

SCOTLAND'S worried selectors will delay naming a squad for the international against South Africa next week until Monday because of injuries to several senior players (Kevin Ferris writes).

Andy Reed, the lock forward, and Rowen Shepherd, the full back, were named in the 21 for the match against Australia last Saturday, but withdrew with back and rib problems respectively. Although Doddie Weir, the lock forward, has been playing regularly for Newcastle, he

has been considered unfit for international duty. Adam Roxburgh, the blind-side flanker, was concussed against Australia, but Rob Wainwright, the captain last season, may be pressed into action after being sidelined this month with a damaged heel.

Graham Ellis, the Currie hooker, who played throughout the five nations' championship last season, suffered broken bones in a hand against ACT last Friday and is out until the new year.

SAILING: 'KING OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN' LIVES UP TO HIS BILLING

Smith responds in regal fashion

FROM EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN FREMANTLE

WITH some justification, a rival Whitbread Round the World Race skipper recently referred to Lawrie Smith as the "King of the Southern Ocean". Yesterday, on board his garish purple and white *Silk Cut*, the king made it to Fremantle to celebrate a second leg in which he and his crew set a world record and recovered to take third place overall.

Smith, a shy man at the best of times, looked taken aback when local dignitaries placed a garland of laurels round his neck, but it was clear that the Briton was happy and relieved to have made it to western Australia in fourth place for the leg.

Compared with his preoccupied demeanour at Cape Town at the end of the first leg just over a month ago, this was a more contented skipper of a largely

undamaged boat, despite the fact that he had again failed to finish in the top three. The difference is as much to do with the performance of others as with his own. Grant Dalton's nightmare in the Southern Ocean on *Merit Cup*, which still had the best part of 500 miles to go yesterday, has improved *Silk Cut*'s position. Smith has also settled an old score with Paul Cayard, on *EF Language*, who finished five hours behind him in fifth place. Cayard admitted that he had been outtailed in heavy conditions by Smith's young crew.

The distance record of just under 450 miles in 24 hours underlines that *Silk Cut* is a fast boat, especially in the downwind conditions that typify Whitbread sailing, but the performance also suggests that the boat has not been given the chance to do itself justice, because of poor tactical decisions early in both legs.

There is already a 40-point gap between Smith and the leader, Knut Frostad, in

Innovation Kvaerner. Both legs have shown that, with evenly matched boats, the smallest initial tactical error can have serious long-term consequences.

The problem has led to speculation that Smith's young navigator, Steve Hayles, may be replaced or offered new advice while on shore. Senior team sources are claiming that approaches have been made to Nick White, a New Zealand meteorologist, who was originally contracted to Cayard. White, however, is not available for some months because of contract complications, and with Smith's former Whitbread navigator, Vincent Geake, not available either — except possibly for the shortest legs — Smith is more likely to stick with Hayles.

"Steve has done a very good job," Smith said. "He kept telling me all the time that you've got to go south, but we didn't do it. We need to do things that we believe in and stick to them, rather than worry about short-term gains and losses."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

David Price, the most successful player in the domestic competitions so far this year, found a play on this rubber bridge hand that you usually only see in text books.

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
AKJ7 1065 854 76	AKJ7 1065 854 76	AKJ7 1065 854 76
Q8 KQJ9 KQJ10 J82	Q8 KQJ9 KQJ10 J82	Q8 KQJ9 KQJ10 J82

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: King of diamonds

South opened One Club, West overcalled One Diamond, North bid One Heart and then raised South's rebid of One No-Trump to Three No-Trumps.

Declarer (Howard Cohen) ducked the diamond lead, as most players would, and when West continued with the jack of diamonds, East (David Price) discarded the queen of clubs. Do you see the effect of that? It meant that declarer could no longer develop clubs without letting West in. Had East discarded a spade, say, declarer can cross to a spade, play a club to the ace, then cross to a heart and play another club. If East plays low, declarer wins with the king and leads a third round, establishing the suit. If East plays the queen, South ducks, and again the suit is established.

Cohen recovered well from this setback. He ducked the second diamond, and took the next round, East discarding a spade. Recognising that the queen of clubs discard meant West would have the guarded jack, he took a spade finesse, and cashed two more spades. That forced a diamond discard from West, so after the king and ace of hearts Cohen was able to throw West in with diamonds to lead into the club tenace. But it was a lucky lie of the cards — if West had, say, J x x of hearts he would have been able to put East in with a third round to lead through declarer's clubs.

Also the strength of declarer's clubs slightly spoils the story — he might not have ducked the queen of clubs on the line I advocate, in case East had started with Q J x x. But note that ducking the first diamond was what gave East the chance to make the spectacular play — if declarer had taken the first diamond there was nothing the defence could do.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Active organisers

In the aftermath of the 1993 world championship between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short in London, a host of international level tournaments and matches has been organised in the UK. Amongst the most active promoters of such events have been Chris Dunworth, responsible for the four nations' chess league, grandmaster Nigel Davies, who launched the powerful series of tournaments at Wrexham, and Stewart Reuben, the chairman of the British Chess Federation. Another notable organiser is Adam Roaf, who has staged a series of strong competitions. His latest exploit has been a category ten grandmaster tournament in London. Here is a full set of results and a game by the winner.

White: Luke McShane
Black: Jonathan Rowson
London, October 1997
Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 Nf6
4 Nc3 cxd4
5 Nxd4 Nc6
6 Bc3 e6
7 Q2 Qc7
8 Qd2 Qc7
9 Qd2 Qc7
10 Qd2 Qc7

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
1 Rowson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
2 McShane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Lalic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Shakhov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Timmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Pridemore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Wells	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Gormally	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Dunington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

In the above table, 1 represents a win, 0 a draw and 0 a loss

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is a variation from the game Speelman — Stean, London 1980.
How would White have brought his queenside attack to a successful conclusion?
Solution on page 50

Profile of tennis to increase

By JULIAN MUSCAT TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE successful exploits of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman have encouraged the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to pledge £1 million towards further raising the sport's profile. It will be the biggest promotion of tennis undertaken in Britain.

Funding for Play Tennis 98, to be supplemented by corporate sponsorship, comes directly from the LTA's share of the record Wimbledon profits this year. Rusedski — and Henman, whose efforts in reaching the quarter-finals contributed significantly to those profits, rallied with schoolchildren in London yesterday to kick-start the project.

The LTA's nationwide drive to recruit more participants, particularly in association with schools, revolves around a week of free access to tennis facilities. Private clubs, park courts and commercial centres have been approached to open their doors between May 23-30,



Henman, left, and Rusedski launch Play Tennis 98 in Ladbroke Grove yesterday

when every standard of player — including families — will be catered for. The scheme's target is to add 500,000 to the five million active participants in Britain. John Crowther, the LTA's chief executive, said Play Tennis 98 would strengthen further the infrastructure that has been developed in Britain over the past seven years. "We have got to seize

the moment if we are going to generate the strength and depth that we all seek," he said. "The project is in the clubs' long-term interests and we are expecting at least 500 [clubs] to take part."

has underpinned the successful recruitment of an ATP Tour event, to be staged in London's Battersea Park in February. "This [the initiative] gives a chance for kids to play tennis without any cost," Rusedski said. "We need youngsters aged between six and ten to pick up a racket and see if they like it. The future of British tennis rests with them."

Answers on page 50

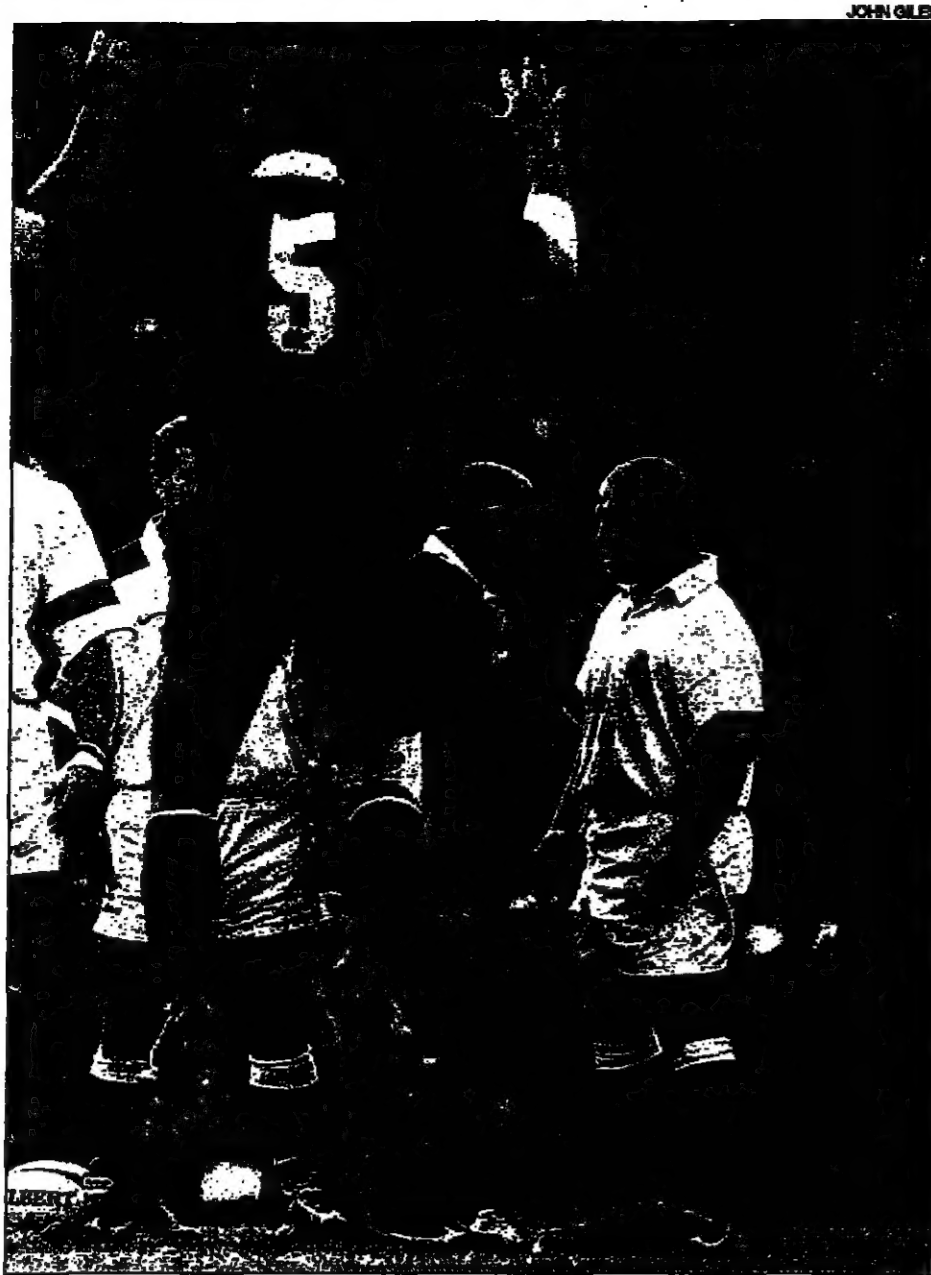
'The haka is an absolutely perfect piece of pure gamesmanship'

Daring to challenge an All Black aggressor

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View



Cockerill, right, stares out Norm Hewitt during the pre-match confrontation

I walked into a bar the other day and I spat in this fellow's beer. He seemed rather aggrieved at this, but I soon put him straight. "Now look here, fellow," I said. "Don't take that tone with me. Spitting in people's beer is an essential aspect of my culture. It is your solemn duty to respect that."

Well, obviously, the fellow saw my point at once. He apologised very prettily and kept me plying with beer throughout the course of the evening. So that was all right. A not dissimilar thing happened in Manchester last weekend. A group of fellows started capering about in front of another group of fellows. The capering fellows pulled faces. They made a lot of threatening noises and threatening gestures. They also seemed to me to be making gestures of elaborate and derivative sexual insult.

One of the non-capering fellows took exception to the capering and the up-you stuff. So he fixed one of the caperers with his best Paddington Bear Really Hard Stare.

Richard Cockerill, the hooker of the England rugby union team, was roundly criticised for the Paddington bit. This is because the up-you capering is also known as the haka and the New Zealand rugby team always does it before a match. Something to do with Maori tradition, they insist.

"All we ask is that they respect our culture," John Hart, the New Zealand coach, said: though anyone who has taken a taxi in Auckland knows that Maori tradition is not every New Zealand's biggest source of national identity and pride.

"It's not meant to be intimidating," Justin Marshall, the New Zealand captain, said. This was not disingenuous, it is something known technically as lying through your teeth.

"It's just part of our culture, something we do."

It also just happens to be something that manifestly increases corporate resolves and individual aspiration. Further, it is clearly a form of threat behaviour. It is a kind of war dance and to invoke the spirit of war does rather tend to imply combat.

In short, the haka is a sanctioned and legitimised method of starting a game one-up on the opposition. It is a glorious chunk of pure gamesmanship—gamesmanship in the strict Pottersque understanding of the term. All Cockerill was doing was to find some Pottersque solution to the problem of the haka, something that the great man would have called a Counter-Haka Ploy or, perhaps, Counter-Hakaing.

There have been others. Ireland once linked arms and marched in a body on the capering horde before them. Australia once tried an en masse Paddington Stare. Meanwhile, David Campese ran about by himself with a ball, an individual's expression of individual contempt. I have witnessed two perfect

pieces of Counter-Hakaing. The first took place the last time England played New Zealand at Twickenham. The crowd greeted the haka with the loudest blast of "Chariots" ever heard. It was a massive noise and it had a real physical impact. The haka, normally worth a good three points start, was totally defused. England went on to win a famous victory.

The second time was the Hong Kong Sevens. New Zealand were to play Fiji in the final. A group of drunken, shirtless Kiwi spectators ran on to the pitch just before kick-off to perform a rather bad haka. The seven men of Fiji watched in silent contempt. But then—just before the referee raised his whistle to his lips—the Fijians crouched as

one man and performed their own war dance. It was a moment of blinding menace and ferocity. Fiji won 28-0. It remains the best bit of rugby I have seen in my life.

Intimidation is always cropping up in sport. The first-minute tackle to "let him know you're there", the off-the-ball jostling, the muttered insults of sledging cricketers. Connoisseurs of intimidation will remember Bruce Grobbelaar, the Liverpool goalkeeper, when facing a penalty shoot-out in the European Cup final against AS Roma in 1984.

At 21 down, Grobbelaar began some caperings of his own. He trembled his knees in a parody of nervousness, he gnawed the goal-keeping in a

frenzy. All three of the subsequent Roma penalty-takers missed the target and Liverpool won the shoot-out 4-2.

Grobbelaar was allowed to get away with it. The New Zealand rugby team have been getting away with it for years. Good luck to them. Just don't whinge if people start counter-hakaing, morris dancing in the centre circle, doing the hokey-cokey, fighting back with the old Paddington Bear Stare.

And stop going on about culture. The fact is that the haka is an absolutely perfect piece of pure gamesmanship. And there is an end to the matter. To respond to gamesmanship in your own way is, to any person with sporting blood in the veins, nothing less than a basic human right.

BASKETBALL

Cheung wins surprise call

LASZLO NEMETH caused a few eyebrows to be raised when he named Silas Cheung in the England squad for their European championship campaign (Nicholas Harting writes).

Cheung, 23, was brought up in the United States, and gained a Division One basketball scholarship to Mount St Mary's in Maryland, where he made his name as a guard before joining Trier in Germany.

Nemeth, the England coach, handed him his international debut against Germany in Dusseldorf on Monday, where he collected three points. England face Denmark in Copenhagen tonight, Spain in Plymouth on Saturday and Ukraine in Guildford next Wednesday.

Answers from page 49

LABYRINTH
(a) Counter-clockwise. A useful alternative to wilderness. "Wind do you mean, how do you turn it out? It's a tap, dear girl, a tap. Labyrinthine, labyrinthine, of course."

TENEBRIFIC
(a) Pertaining to darkness and gloom. From the Latin *tenebrific*. "Gee whizz, your scalars are tenebrific. Professor. No, really, I mean it. Absolutely tenebrific!"

DECANAL
(a) Pertaining to a canal or denary. Originally ecclesiastical. The part of the choir that sits on the same side of the cathedral as the dean. It is on the south side of the choir. The opposite is *cantorial*. It could also be used in the Groves of Academe. When the Dean of Multitudinal Studies observes a student sitting gang approaching his office, the relative for which he reaches might be described as the decanal seasonal.

OTIOSE
(a) Serving no useful purpose. Or else, idleness. Both come from the same Latin word, *otium* (leisure). The idleness concept is idle. The irrelevant echoes of *otiose*, *otiose* and *otiose* make this a useful word for disconcerting and even disconcerting the ignorant in casual chat.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 N6+1 c6d5 2 Rd+1 Rd3 3 Rd+1 Qd4 4 Qd4 checkmate

Inside the bears' den

The Wildlife Specials
BBC1, 7.55pm

Sir David Attenborough (who else!) presents a six-part series on wild animals to mark 40 years of the BBC Natural History Unit. Over those 40 years there must have been scores of programmes about leopards, eagles and whales, not to mention the polar bear which features tonight. This justification for returning to these much-photographed subjects is that technology is always moving on, allowing the camera to go where only a few years ago would have been unthinkable. In the polar bear film we are taken, for what is claimed to be the first time, inside a den to watch a mother tend her newborn cubs. Shot in the Arctic, the film uses a year-in-the-life format to evoke the bear's precarious existence in an area where temperatures are savagely low and food is hard to come by. The lenses of Dougal Allan and Martin Saunders provide the splendid and often unexpected footage.

The Real Holiday Show
Channel 4, 8.30pm

What links the latest selection of waits-and-all holidays is that the participants are all, to a greater or lesser extent, having to brave it out. For Joanne (35) and John (27) the age difference invites the inevitable stares, though after several shared holidays they are getting used to them. Their latest venture is backpacking through the Far East and if roughing it on the cheap cannot destroy their friendship nothing can. Paul and Richard are two friends in their twenties hoping to enjoy Ibiza. But both are deaf and for Paul particularly, on his first trip abroad, there is a lack of social confidence to overcome. Kathryn is a single mother with an eight-year-old daughter, Caroline, and little spare cash. Their holiday home may be a beach hut in Dorset without hot water or electricity but Caroline could not be happier or more mischievous.

Secret Lives: Billy Buddie
Channel 4, 9.00pm

This is a series which delights in digging up dirt and the king of the holiday camp provides it by the spade. Promoting pleasure for others, on the principle of giving them what he thought they wanted, he did not stint on it for himself. The



Canadian polar bear (BBC1, 7.55pm)

supposed family man had endless affairs and drove two of his wives to drink. His second marriage, publicly celebrated on *This Is Your Life*, was a sham, contracted to legitimise his children and guarantee his knighthood, ironically awarded for services to church and charity. He paid his staff so badly that pilfering at the camps was rife, as was the opportunity for sexual adventure. The randy Redcoats were inadvertently following their master's example. But Buddie was still a great showman who brightened thousands of lives.

Breaking Point
BBC2, 9.50pm

The latest couple to air their marital troubles before the cameras are Mary and Alan from Hertfordshire. She met him when he was her boss at the bank. Fourteen years later they have three children but things are not happy. As the film opens she is talking about splitting up. Instead they go to Relate for six weeks of counselling sessions. No punches are pulled. Mary accuses Alan of not helping around the house and with the children. He retorts that he works hard to keep the home together and that she is always on the take. His redundancy, and their daughter's asthma, are further sources of strain. The *Breaking Point* series comes from BBC Education and is clearly intended to promote the value of marriage guidance. But there cannot help being a feeling of intrusion on the problems of total strangers. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Dream of Gerontius (Sounding the Century)
Radio 3, 7.30pm

This is billed as part of the BBC's 75th anniversary celebrations, indeed it is the principal music programme marking that anniversary. This towering work by Elgar, based on the poem by Cardinal Newman, was regarded by Elgar himself as his finest. It certainly qualifies as one of the great works of this century and this live broadcast from St Paul's Cathedral, also transmitted on BBC2, will be the most of a special event given that it involves the BBC Symphony Orchestra and its conductor Andrew Davis, who is one of the world's leading interpreters of Elgar. The soloists tonight are Catherine Wyn-Rogers (soprano), Philip Langridge (tenor) and Alastair Miles (bass), with the BBC Symphony Chorus.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zed Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes at 12.30pm Newswatch 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 News 6.15 Westway 6.30 News 6.50 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.55 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.55 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.55 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.55 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.55 News 5.00 News 5.15 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.55 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.55 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.55 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.55 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.55 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.55 News 1

Joanna's plum pudding needed pruning

Joanna's plum pudding needed pruning

It was the sort of night that made you realise that Joanna Lumley may be the last person in Britain to get away with having a seriously pukka accent on television. The gentlewoman who police horse-racing didn't, oh dear me, but we'll come to that shortly. But Lumley, as she is called, is a Himalayan journey her grand-papa had taken 60 years ago. There was something about the way she said "Bhutan", still only two syllables, but each — mysteriously, deliciously — seemed to go on forever.

Sorry, getting a bit carried away. Put it down to listening to a Lumley commentary for 75 minutes. It was a bit like listening to a Christmas cake. It's all so absolutely remote from England and London, as if we were travelling on a different planet and through a different age. As Joanna Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon (BBC1) got

under way, you stuck in a thumb and pulled out your plum after plum. "Granny kept a diary of the journey and I'm going to do the same." Oh goody.

There were the Buddhist monasteries, which the Queen Mother (hers not ours) had given Lumley and Mayle, her cousin (as in, maybe this one will be, girl), special permission to film inside. "In a way these monasteries are microcosms of the country — each a closed community but full of their own life and discipline, at once well informed about current affairs and yet strangely timeless."

We needed more impromptu pony club lessons (too much except for leg aids), more on the delights of blue nylon and more fantasies about "a little peachy gin and tonic". What we needed less of was: "Even though we can't speak Bhutanesse, it's amazing how one can exchange ideas and thoughts, get to know people and find out about things."

But what she deserves full credit for is travelling without a trace of Patsy from *Absolutely Fabulous*, no matter how difficult that made life for the BBC trailer department. The only mention of the dandies was when Lumley was having dinner with some junior royals (as she does) and one of

anywhere near Cutting Edge: The Englishman and his Horse (Channel 4). Others were not so fortunate, falling victim to the sort of film where the original purpose becomes completely obscured by the monumental chip on its maker's shoulder. From the opening succession of upper-class, middle-aged men hanging on their passion for horse-riding, you knew exactly what was coming. It was a stretch-up time.

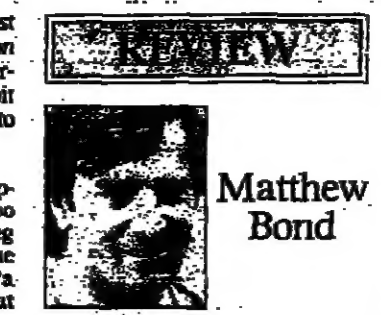
I'm not sure you come out of it worse? The Jockey Club for falling for the old fly-on-the-grandstand documentary trick again, or Channel 4 for showing a film that was both vicious (having a pukka accent was the worst crime of all) and unforgivably sloppy.

You would think a film that had told us within the opening five minutes that there are 100 members of the Jockey Club and 300 stewards at race courses would be able to work out that most stew-

ards are not members of the Jockey Club? But no, they had to have a clever little sequence at the end when they asked each of their unfortunate subjects whether they were members or not? The succession of "no"s was taken by Rite Oord as confirmation of a greater conspiracy, but all it confirmed for me was that she couldn't do arithmetic and hadn't done her homework. The confusion between people who work for the Jockey Club and those who are members of it simply added to the impression of a film-maker in search of a target, any target — as long as its accent was posh enough.

Slugly, the commentary kept observing how David Pipe, head of public relations at the Jockey Club, was "keeping an eye on us". As he had probably realised by now, that had just made the worst mistake of his career. I'm not surprised. Only in this sort of blinkered film would a Stewards Inquiry into overuse of the whip manage to turn the stewards into the villains of the piece, rather than the apprentice jockey who freely admitted that he had lost his head. Never mind, they still had the deputy head of PR making the biggest mistake of his career, talking about "the master-servant relationship" on camera and Peter Walwyn, the trainer, on why all his employees call him "sir". That'll do. But it shouldn't.

If Channel 4 had unambiguously set out to confirm tired old preconceptions, BBC's *Timewatch: The African Trade* aggressively set out to overturn them, arguing persuasively that the West African slave trade had only been possible because black African slave merchants colluded with white European slave-traders. It excused nothing, explained a lot and produced a very impressive, pukka piece of television.



Matthew Bond

them, even more pukka-sounding than she, answered his phone. There was a short pause. "What do you mean, you did bugger?" Another pause. "Absolutely fabulous. I may be wrong but I think a member of the Bhutan royal family had just won a bet."

He was a racing man — Newmarket was his favourite course. But he had the good sense to stay in the Himalayas rather than go

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (53248)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (57171)
 - 9.00 Good Living: Dried flower arrangements, Christmas hampers and traditional and vegetarian recipes (5248662)
 - 9.25 Style Challenge (525597)
 - 9.50 Kilroy (1) (566229)
 - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (381571)
 - 10.55 The Really Useful Show (7543201)
 - 11.35 Change That (191662)
 - 12.00 News (1) (563133)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (524571)
 - 12.35 Give Us A Clue (525230)
 - 1.00 News (1) and weather (57330)
 - 1.30 Regional News (5407342)
 - 1.40 The Weather Show (5631507)
 - 1.45 Neighbours (1) (574657)
 - 2.10 Snooker: UK Championship. The first quarter-final (580107)
 - 3.30 Playdays (5804065) 3.50 ChuckleVision (584201) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (5917733) 4.35 Out of Tune (142005) 5.00 Newsround (1) (516168) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (501288)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (545133)
 - 6.00 News (1) and weather (568)
 - 6.30 Regional News (538)
 - 7.00 Face Value: The Chippendale reveal their beauty secrets. Does the use of star names to promote cosmetic companies and designer labels affect what the public actually buys? (1) (57777)
 - 7.25 Tomorrow's World: A ground-breaking new treatment to control epilepsy; the future of home entertainment with "enhanced" television (1) (411423)
 - 7.55 **Polar Bear: A Wildlife Special** Martha Holmes and Doug Allen risk life and limb to film polar bears inhabiting the Arctic ice-caps (1) (411220)
 - 8.45 The National Lottery Live presented by Carol Smille with music from Bryan Adams. Includes a report on the old Reading Room of the British Museum by Tony Benn, MP (1) (594449)
 - 9.00 News (1) and weather (581)
 - 9.30 Absolutely Fabulous: Fear Edna's daughter Sally flies the nest, so Patsy promptly takes her place in the Moonson household (1) (1) (51355)
 - 9.59 National Lottery Update (581084)
 - 10.00 The X-Files: Leonard Betts Mulder and Scully investigate the case of a decapitated body which walks out of a hospital morgue, triggering a search for a highly evolved humanoid lifeform. Supernatural drama, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (1) (746225)
 - 10.45 Tom Jones (3/5) (1) (386084) **WALSH: 10.45 First News (233355)** 11.15 Tom Jones (500249) 12.00 News: Plan of Attack (545195) 1.40 News headlines and weather (500395) 1.45 BBC News 24
 - 11.40 **Adrian and Anthony** John Denison. A rape victim is terrorised by her vengeful attacker after his release from prison. Directed by Fred Walton (545659)
 - 1.00am Weather (5815447)
 - 1.10 BBC News 24
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**
- The nearest next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode on the programme list when to record: VideoPlus+ (+), Pluscode (+) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemma Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Technology: Errors Aren't Forever (57930) 6.30 **1601** (50571)
 - 7.00 See Hear: Breakfast News (1 and signing) (545338)
 - 7.15 Teletubbies (1) (461757) 7.40 The Perils of Penelope Pitstop (1) (297151) 8.05 It's Never Work (1) (297151) 8.30 Model Millionaire (1) (250137) 8.45 The Record (526759) 9.10 What? Where? Why? (564138) 9.25 English Express (250146) 9.45 Words and Pictures (1) (54220)
 - 10.00 Teletubbies (2181) 10.30 Numberline (391577) 10.45 Watch (240894) 11.00 Around Scotland (1) (20268) 11.20 Geography Programme (525783) 11.40 Revistas (521726) 11.55 Culture Minutes Plus (1) (46507) 12.10pm Science in Action (542423)
 - 12.30 Working Lunch (19133)
 - 1.00 Noddy (1) (3101403) 1.10 The History Hour from Norwich (600440) 2.10 Going, Going, Gone (5217435) 2.40 News (301840) 2.45 Westminster (430282) 3.35 News (5831404)
 - 4.00 Snooker: UK Championship. Further quarter-final coverage (5423)
 - 5.00 The Ren and Stimpy Show: Double-bill of cartoon misadventures (1) (58249)
 - 6.20 Building Sights: USA. The actress Diane Keaton discusses the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright's Ennis-Crown House (1) (177317)
 - 6.30 Black Britain: The legacy of the New Cross fire tragedy; how a recently passed law in America could outlaw positive discrimination; and how Roni Sto has been helping budding British musicians (1) (881)
 - 7.00 Snooker: UK Championship. Quarter-final action (588)
- Conductor Andrew Davis (7.30pm)**
- 7.30 The Dream of Gerontius: A live performance of Elgar's choral work from St Paul's Cathedral. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (1) Subsequent programmes may run late (5406930)
 - 9.25 Snooker: UK Championship Highlights (78201)
 - 9.50 **Breaking Point** Paolo Bonolis. A couple whose marriage has reached a crossroads (1) (55423)
 - 10.30 Newswatch (1) (580775)
 - 11.15 Snooker: UK Championship (125133)
 - 11.55 Weather (100930)
 - 12.00 The Midnight Hour (58945)
 - 12.30 Learning Zone: The Making of Gerontius (5440114) 12.45 Great Civilisations (323543) 1.35 Changing Berlin: Changing Europe (1) (535008) 2.00 Schools: The Economics Collection (33006) 4.00 Languages: Italianissimo (19840) 5.00 RCN Nursing Update (58505) 5.30 RCN Nursing Update (15404)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (4718152)
 - 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (5241317)
 - 9.55 Regional News (5768045)
 - 10.00 The Time, the Place (25607)
 - 10.30 This Morning (1) (46037591)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (5838355)
 - 12.30 News (1) and weather (588355)
 - 12.55 Shortland Street (2583048) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (25543159) 1.50 The Rockford Files (5305572) 2.50 Vanessa: Britain's Most Boring Men (1) (5304607)
 - 3.20 News (1) (5816065)
 - 3.25 Regional News (5615338)
 - 3.30 Total TV (5330084) 3.40 The Singing Kettle: News (1252336) 3.50 The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (503713) 4.20 Nell's: At Attack: Scrapbook (1) (1212125) 4.45 Sabrina: The Teenage Witch (1) (1411317)
 - 5.10 **WALSH: Yan Can Cook — The Best of China** (72533)
 - 5.10 No Nuts: Flames — The Work Experience (72533)
 - 5.40 News (1) and weather (72533)
 - 5.40 Home and Away (1) (582235)
 - 6.25 Regional Weather (448317)
 - 6.30 Regional News (1) (507)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale: The Calms have a housewarming party for Woodside; Sam takes Marion to see the van he has been stealing from (1) (3442)
 - 7.30 Champions' League — Live! Bob Wilson presents coverage of the match between Borussia Dortmund and Newcastle United (1) Includes National Lottery results (1) (5848902)
 - NB: Subsequent programmes may run late**
 - 9.45 Coronation Street: Judy flees to safety with the baby; and Les gets too close for Samantha's comfort (1) (237171)
 - 10.15 News (1) and weather and National Lottery result (229152)
 - 10.45 Regional News (1) (349249)
- Trevor McDonald (10.55pm)**
- 10.55 The Hunt: A focus on the blood sport of hunting, both sides of the hunting world fight it out in a bid to influence Friday's vote in Parliament (331688)
 - 11.55 Tropical Heat (1) (220152)
 - 12.55am Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (778485)
 - 1.25 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (1) (529992)
 - 1.50 Customs Classified (1) (7540534)
 - 2.30 Cool Vibes (4615737)
 - 2.40 Champions' League: Feyenoord v Juventus (220718)
 - 4.20 Phenomena (4021824)
 - 4.35 The Time, the Place (1) (5334292)
 - 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (73534)
 - 5.30 News (4350)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2563045)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (574539)
 - 6.25-7.00 Central News (520133)
 - 11.55 Film: The Horror of Frankenstein (33978)
 - 1.40am In Focus (7934718)
 - 2.25 Cool Vibes (4615737)
 - 4.20 Central Jobholder '97 (5888718)
 - 5.20 Aalen Eye (500906)
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (593317)
 - 12.55 Home and Away (7567607)
 - 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (7606707)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (574539)
 - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (21978)
 - 11.55 Secrets of the World's Great Escape Artists (220152)
- As HTV West except:**
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (574539)
 - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (355)
 - 6.30-7.00 Put it to the Test (507)
 - 11.55 Beyond Reason (213510)
 - 12.25am Meridian Masterclass (1775027)
 - 5.00 Freenews (72534)
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (5841152)
 - 12.55-1.25 The Fashion Police (2563045)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (574539)
 - 6.23 Anglia Weather (448046)
 - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (520133)
 - 10.44 Anglia Air Watch (539628)
 - 11.55 Movie Magic (220152)
- Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (50881)**
- 9.00 VeggieNation (220794)
 - 11.30 Powerhouse (5064)
 - 12.00 Sesame Street (54559)
 - 12.30pm Ricki Lake (47571)
 - 1.00 Slot Meltdown (11214238)
 - 1.15 Toi Toi (20769143)
 - 1.40 Avondale Dogs (4408982)
 - 1.50 Film: Rotten to the Core (52700152)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot (713)
 - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (220)
 - 4.30 Pantoland (404)
 - 5.00 5 Pump (505881)
 - 5.15 Fidd (516133)
 - 5.30 Countdown (864)
 - 6.00 Newyddion (53258)
 - 6.10 Heno (58572)
 - 7.00 Pabot y Cwm (583719)
 - 7.25 Ffermio (525572)
 - 8.00 Soap (7404)
 - 8.30 Newyddion (5838)
 - 9.00 Crocker (5133)
 - 10.00 Brookside (106688)
 - 10.35 Babylon 5 (578510)
 - 11.30 Cybill (50201)
 - 12.30am Lloyds Bank Film Challenge (543522)
 - 12.45 Fresh Pop (5398331)
 - 12.50 Under the Moon (5045331)
 - 4.30 Lumberjacks OK! (26114)
 - 5.00-5.30 Screaming Reels (71176)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55am Sesame Street (46959)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (50881)
 - 9.00 Schools: Making Sense of Science (57423) 9.30 Good Health (1) (415133) 9.45 Book Box (1) (415668) 10.00 Stage Two Science (1) (5260143) 10.15 Rat-a-Tat-Tat! (5610854) 10.30 Geographical Eye (1) (2078133) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (1) (523727) 11.00 First Edition IV (3071510) 11.15 The Max (1) (5061133)
 - 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (5064) 12.00 Sesame Street (54559) 12.30pm Light Lunch (14317) 1.30 Book Bargain (b/w) A 1937 short about printing the London telephone directory (54066152)
 - 1.40 The Birthday Present (1857, b/w) starring Tony Britton and Sylvia Sims. A drama about a salesman who loses everything when he is sent to prison for trying to smuggle a watch into the country to give to his wife. Directed by Pat Jackson (1580591)
 - 3.30 Collections: Lost featuring a collection of lipsticks from the 1950s, Joan Collins and Dynasty paraphernalia and bedroom dancing dresses (1) (713) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (220) 4.30 Countdown (1) (414404) 4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (5261959) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (864)
 - 6.00 GameMaster: Computer games magazine presented by Dominik Diamond with Patrick Moore (1) (597)
 - 6.30 Roseanne (1) (249)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (324794)
 - 7.50 Get Sorted: Keeping eye-laying hens (59404)
 - 8.00 Brookside: Lindsey has a change of heart (1) (7404)
 - 8.30 **The Real Holiday Show** Holidaymakers' video diaries from southern China, Ibiza and Dorset (58) (1) (5530)
 - 9.00 **Secret Lives: Billy Butlin** The story of the "Holiday Camp King" (1) (5133)
- Ewan McGregor stars (10.00pm)**
- 10.00 Transposh (1996) starring Ewan McGregor, Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller. Controversial award-winning black comedy drama set in Edinburgh, based on Irvine Welsh's novel, about a young man and his so-called friends — a bunch of losers, liars, psychos, thieves and junkies. Directed by Danny Boyle (1) (222659)
 - 11.50 Drop Dead Gorgeous: The stand-up comedian Steve Moore on stage (229433)
 - 12.50am Under the Moon Through-the-night sports magazine (5045331)
 - 4.30 Lumberjacks OK! Twelve of the world's top loggers sportsmen (1) (5) (26114)
 - 5.00 Screaming Reels: Angling series (1) (71176)
 - 5.30 Schools: Geographical Eye (1130319)

- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videotext decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are: picture: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Early (2283133)
 - 7.30 Milkshake (4946775) 7.35 Stickin' Around (547626) 8.00 Hawkazoo (1) (540571)
 - 8.30 WideWorld: How computer networks and e-mail are changing the way people work (4/5) (2590012)
 - 9.00 Espresso (2235978) 10.00 Exclusive (525530) 10.30 Close Encounters — 24 Hours in Deepest Dulwich (1) (580256)
 - 11.00 Leesa Chat show hosted by Leesa Gibbons (780084) 11.50 Double Espresso (54164054) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (46554) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (717731)
 - 1.00 5 News Update (16498323) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (359591) 2.00 5's Company (584559)
 - 3.30 Once Upon a Honeymoon (1942, b/w) starring Cary Grant and Ginger Rogers. A comedy adventure set in Europe during the Second World War. Directed by Leo McCarey (2284249)
 - 5.30 Whittle Audience participation game show (1) (332153)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz game show without a host (331152)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs: Duncan and Melanie decide that Holly needs a man; Angela believes that her relationship with Helen is over (1) (3302404)
 - 7.00 Exclusive with Sarah Cox. Includes an interview with Wesley Snipes (5800978)
 - 7.30 Dwellers of the Deep: Sea of Eden Documentary on Palau, an archipelago of around 200 islands in the Pacific (1) (330688)
 - 8.00 Instant Gardens: William Van Hage and his team complete work started last week on an exotic rock terrace (5819826)
 - 8.30 5 News (1) (588133)
- Robin Williams in trouble (8.00pm)**
- 8.00 Cadillac Man (1990) starring Robin Williams. A comedy about a womanising car salesman in trouble with his former wife, his girlfriends and his boss. Directed by Roger Donaldson (7902626)
 - 10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (510713)
 - 11.35 Prisoner: Carl Block H (5476539)
 - 12.35am Live and Dangerous includes American college football (32084331)
 - 4.35 The Streets of San Francisco starring Karl Malden and Michael Douglas (1) (703553)
 - 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (2216843)

- SATELLITE AND CABLE**
- Monsters: 7.00 Hey Arnold 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 Doug 8.30 Reruns: Doug 8.50 8.55 9.00 9.05 9.10 9.15 9.20 9.25 9.30 9.35 9.40 9.45 9.50 9.55 10.00 10.05 10.10 10.15 10.20 10.25 10.30 10.35 10.40 10.45 10.50 10.55 11.00 11.05 11.10 11.15 11.20 11.25 11.30 11.35 11.40 11.45 11.50 11.55 12.00 12.05 12.10 12.15 12.20 12.25 12.30 12.35 12.40 12.45 12.50 12.55 1.00 1.05 1.10 1.15 1.20 1.25 1.30 1.35 1.40 1.45 1.50 1.55 2.00 2.05 2.10 2.15 2.20 2.25 2.30 2.35 2.40 2.45 2.50 2.55 3.00 3.05 3.10 3.15 3.20 3.25 3.30 3.35 3.40 3.45 3.50 3.55 4.00 4.05 4.10 4.15 4.20 4.25 4.30 4.35 4.40 4.45 4.50 4.55 5.00 5.05 5.10 5.15 5.20 5.25 5.30 5.35 5.40 5.45 5.50 5.55 6.00 6.05 6.10 6.15 6.20 6.25 6.30 6.35 6.40 6.45 6.50 6.55 7.00 7.05 7.10 7.15 7.20 7.25 7.30 7.35 7.40 7.45 7.50 7.55 8.00 8.05 8.10 8.15 8.20 8.25 8.30 8.35 8.40 8.45 8.50 8.55 9.00 9.05 9.10 9.15 9.20 9.25 9.30 9.35 9.40 9.45 9.50 9.55 10.00 10.05 10.10 10.15 10.20 10.25 10.30 10.35 10.40 10.45 10.50 10.55 11.00 11.05 11.10 11.15 11.20 11.25 11.30 11.35 11.40 11.45 11.50 11.55 12.00 12.05 12.10 12.15 12.20 12.25 12.30 12.35 12.40 12.45 12.50 12.55 1.00 1.05 1.10 1.15 1.20 1.25 1.30 1.35 1.40 1.45 1.50 1.55 2.00 2.05 2.10 2.15 2.20 2.25 2.30 2.35 2.40 2.45 2.50 2.55 3.00 3.05 3.10 3.15 3.20 3.25 3.30 3.35 3.40 3.45 3.50 3.55 4.00 4.05 4.10 4.15 4.20 4.25 4.30 4.35 4.40 4.45 4.50 4.55 5.00 5.05 5.10 5.15 5.20 5.25 5.30 5.35 5.40 5.45 5.50 5.55 6.00 6.05 6.10 6.15 6.20 6.25 6.30 6.35 6.40 6.45 6.50 6.55 7.00 7.05 7.10 7.15 7.20 7.25 7.30 7.35 7.40 7.45 7.50 7.55 8.00 8.05 8.10 8.15 8.20 8.25 8.30 8.35 8.40 8.45 8.50 8.55 9.00 9.05 9.10 9.15 9.20 9.25 9.30 9.35 9.40 9.45 9.50 9.55 10.00 10.05 10.10 10.15 10.20 10.25 10.30 10.35 10.40 10.45 10.50 10.55 11.00 11.05 11.10 11.15 11.20 11.25 11.30 11.35 11.40 11.45 11.50 11.55 12.00 12.05 12.10 12.15 12.20 12.25 12.30 12.35 12.40 12.45 12.50 12.55 1.00 1.05 1.10 1.15 1.20 1.25 1.30 1.35 1.40 1.45 1.50 1.55 2.00 2.05 2.10 2.15 2.20 2.25 2.30 2.35 2.40 2.45 2.50 2.55 3.00 3.05 3.10 3.15 3.20 3.25 3.30 3.35 3.40 3.45 3.50 3.55 4.00 4.05 4.10 4.15 4.20 4.25 4.30 4.35 4.40 4.45 4.50 4.55 5.00 5.05 5.10 5.15 5.20 5.25 5.30 5.35 5.40 5.45 5.50 5.55 6.00 6.05 6.10 6.15 6.20 6.25 6.30 6.35 6.40 6.45 6.50 6.55 7.00 7.05 7.10 7.15 7.20 7.25 7.30 7.35 7.40 7.45 7.50 7.55 8.00 8.05 8.10 8.15 8.20 8.25 8.30 8.35 8.40 8.45 8.50 8.55 9.00 9.05 9.10 9.15 9.20 9.25 9.30 9.35 9.40 9.45 9.50 9.55 10.00 10.05 10.10 10.15 10.20 10.25 10.30 10.35 10.40 10.45 10.50 10.55 11.00 11.05 11.10 11.15 11.20 11.25 11.30 11.35 11.40 11.45 11.50 11.55 12.00 12.05 12.10 12.15 12.20 12.25 12.30 12.35 12.40 12.45 12.50 12.55 1.00 1.05 1.10 1.15 1.20 1.25 1.30 1.35 1.40 1.45 1.50 1.55 2.00 2.05 2.10 2.15 2.20 2.25 2.30 2.35 2.40 2.45 2.50 2.55 3.00 3.05 3.10 3.15 3.20 3.25 3.30 3.35 3.40 3.45 3.50 3.55 4.00 4.05 4.10 4.15 4.20 4.25 4.30 4.35 4.40 4.45 4.50 4.55 5.00 5.05 5.10 5.15 5.20 5.25 5.30 5.35 5.40 5.45 5.50 5.55 6.00 6.05 6.10 6.15 6.20 6.25 6.30 6.35 6.40 6.45 6.50 6.55 7.00 7.05 7.10 7.15 7.20 7.25 7.30 7.35 7.40 7.45 7.50 7.55 8.00 8.05 8.10 8.15 8.20 8.25 8.30 8.35 8.40 8.45 8.50 8.55 9.00 9.05 9.10 9.15 9.20 9.25 9.30 9.35 9.40 9.45 9.50 9.55 10.00 10.05 10.10 10.15 10.20 10.25 10.30 10.35 10.40 10.45 10.50 10.55 11.00 11.05 11.10 11.15 11.20 11.25 11.30 11.35 11.40 11.45 11.50 11.55 12.00 12.05 12.10 12.15 12.20 12.25 12.30 12.35 12.40 12.45 12.50 12.55 1.00 1.05 1.10 1.15 1.20 1.25 1.30 1.35 1.40 1.45 1.50 1.55 2.00 2.05 2.10 2.15 2.20 2.25 2.30 2.35 2.40 2.45 2.50 2.55 3.00 3.05 3.10 3.15 3.20 3.25 3.30 3.35 3.40 3.45 3.50 3.55 4.00 4.05 4.10 4.15 4.20 4.25 4.30 4.35 4.40 4.45 4.50 4.55 5.00 5.05 5.10 5.15 5.20 5.25 5.30 5.35 5.40 5.45 5.50 5.55 6.00 6.05 6.10 6.15 6.20 6.25 6.30 6.35 6.40 6.45 6.50 6.55 7.00 7.05 7.10 7.15 7.20 7.25 7.30 7.35 7.40 7.45 7.50 7.55 8.00 8.05 8.10 8.15 8.20 8.25 8.30 8.35 8.40 8.45 8.50 8.55 9.00 9.05 9.10 9.15 9.20 9.25 9.30 9.35 9.40 9.45 9.50 9.55 10.00 10.05 10.10 10.15 10.20 10.25 10.30 10.35 10.40 10.45 10.50 10.55 11.00 11.05 11.10 11.15 11.20 11.25 11.30 11.35 11.40 11.45 11.50 11.55 12.00 12.05 12.10 12.15 12.20 12.25 12.30 12.35 12.40 12.45**

CRICKET 45

Is Lara the right man to lead Warwickshire?

SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26 1997

SIMON BARNES 50

Facing up to the full force of All Black aggression

Makinen does just enough to retain crown after Scot's third RAC Rally triumph

McRae's world falls apart despite victory

By Alan Lee

SOMETIMES, winning is not enough. Colin McRae could do no more yesterday, achieving his third successive world championship victory by taking the Network Q RAC Rally for the third time in four years and doing it with supreme style and fortitude. It was the performance of a champion, but McRae left Cheltenham without the crown.

His destiny had never been entirely controllable. McRae had required more than one final, Herculean effort this week, he had also been reliant on the misfortune of another. There were times, as his adversary battled with the type of influenza not entirely reconcilable with driving at 130mph through fogbound forests, when it seemed that luck, if not justice, might befriend him.

Tommi Makinen, however, is as unyielding a character as McRae and he clung on resolutely to the sixth place that, for him, was as elating as victory itself. The one world championship point that Makinen earned is all that separated him from McRae in the stark, statistical analysis of a stirring, 11-month season.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed," McRae said, with understatement, "but it was always a bit of a long shot. If we couldn't win the championship, winning our home rally was good compensation and I'm not interested in looking back now, only forward to next year."

McRae and his Welsh co-driver, Nicky Grist, won five championship rallies to Makinen's four, but were left to reflect on a barren sequence in mid-season, when accidents and technical failings conspired to keep them pointless at four consecutive events. "It was a disaster in some ways," Grist said, "but we have learnt a lot about ourselves and

about the car. We'll be back to win it next year." Makinen, the 33-year-old Finn, had looked certain to retain the title he first won last year when he led McRae by 20 points with only three rallies remaining. Wins for the Scot in Italy and Australia had reduced his deficit to ten points entering this final event, his specialist subject. The odds, however, remained stacked massively in Makinen's favour and, with a restraint alien to the image of his sport, he concentrated on driving for a point.

McRae always looked the likely winner and yesterday, once his persistent challenger, Richard Burns, from Oxfordshire, had lost almost five minutes to a puncture, it became a procession.

McRae, who lost his lead

Full stage results ——— 46

three times over three days but responded tenaciously on each occasion, cruised through the homecoming stage back at Cheltenham racecourse with a final margin of 2min 47sec over Juha Kankkunen. As an individual performance, it was unsurpassable as a means to the end craved by tens of thousands of his supporters, it was crushingly frustrating.

Aware that Makinen had the additional insurance of his team-mate, Burns, being able to drop back in placings if required, McRae was resigned to narrow failure long before the rally ended. He declined to look back in anger. "In this sport, you can never say what might have been," he said. "We had our problems in mid-season but we have had a very good run since."

McRae had begun the second day with his only serious

scrape, a meeting with a ditch that saw him descend from first place to eighth. In yet more fog, he began the third day more cautiously, conceding 14 seconds to Burns in the hills above Rhondda. Daylight brought deliverance. On the third stage, Burns, whose reputation has been greatly enhanced in this rally, suffered his puncture, allowing McRae the decisive break.

Typically, McRae was ambivalent about his fortune. "It was a relief, because it took the pressure off, but it was also disappointing," he said. "It looked like we would have a really good battle." Evidently, not one for the quiet life.

After the longest stage of the week, 29 miles across the largely open moorland of Resolven, McRae had established a lead in excess of two minutes. For the pursuing pack, the game was up. Attention switched to Makinen, whose medical bulletins had been received as avidly as times.

"He is worse this morning," Andrew Cowan, the Mitsubishi manager, intoned. "His chest is solid, he can't even cough any more." He was not, however, about to produce a sicknote and retire to his bed. Not a hope.

With a cushion of more than a minute, Makinen continued to do just enough, an exercise in self-denial. Only when he reached the racecourse, his title safe, did he indulge himself with a skilful, exuberant burst that saw his car spin off, harmlessly, on the final bend.

"It was always going to be a difficult rally for me, driving just for the point," Makinen said, "but this flu added to the problems. It could have been a problem if I'd needed more than one point because I really don't feel good. I think I have got to sleep, maybe for the next few days."

When he wakes, it will be to reflect on the closest finish to a world championship since 1979 and to contemplate the fact that life will get no easier with McRae on his tail.



McRae's success in his home rally was eclipsed by the efforts of Makinen, below, who took the championship by one point

HOW THEY FINISHED		WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	
1	C McRae (GB, Subaru) 3hr 54min 31sec	1	Makinen 68pts
2	J Kankkunen (Fin, Ford) 3:57:18	2	C McRae 62
3	C Salas (Sp, Ford) 3:58:24	3	Salas 51
4	M Burns (GB, Mitsubishi) 3:59:30	4	Kankkunen 49
5	M Grynholm (Fin, Toyota) 4:00:45	5	K Salonen (Fin, Subaru) 28
6	T Makinen (Fin, Toyota) 4:01:31	6	Lieke 24
7	P Lieke (It, Subaru) 4:03:11	7	Burns 21
8	A Verheem (Nl, Ford) 4:11:59	8	A Schoneveld (Nl, Ford) 11
9	A McRae (GB, Volkswagen) 4:14:27	9	F Lieke (Bel, Toyota) 8
10	M Hironaka (Fin, Seat) 4:17:34	10	G Poulton (Fr, Peugeot) 6



Yorke's goal keeps Villa on course for last eight

Steaia Bucharest 2
Aston Villa 1

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN BUCHAREST

IT WAS not the result that Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, had envisaged to mark his 44th birthday and his third anniversary in charge of the side, but he will have emerged relatively satisfied from the heat of the Steaia Stadium here last night.

It appeared ominous when Steaia Bucharest went 2-0 ahead midway through the first half of this UEFA Cup third round, first-leg tie, but Dwight Yorke's precious away goal could prove decisive in the return leg at Villa Park in a fortnight.

Villa's trip to the stadium on Monday night ended in distasteful fashion when 300 Steaia supporters jeered and directed racist insults at Yorke and Ugo Ehiogu. Mihai Stoichita, the Steaia coach, was also reportedly upset that Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, had taken time of food to Orphanage No 7 here. "We don't want to be known as a country of street children," Stoichita said. "Every country has this problem, including Britain." Ellis's visit to the orphanage was, nevertheless, well received.

Villa were also greeted by a hostile reception when the teams walked out onto the pitch, the shrill whistles and catcalls of the home fans quickly creating an intimidating atmosphere. A pall of smoke from their firecrackers hung over the ground.

None of which appeared to

confident and patient manner on the slippery surface that had been heavily watered overnight. Taylor, as expected, was preferred to Charles and, alongside Draper, he helped Villa to settle with some gently probing runs from midfield.

Wright crossed from the left but Riti, the Steaia goalkeeper, was able to punch clear, albeit unconvincingly, as Yorke waited for the header. Yorke then sliced a shot wonderfully wide after finding space on the edge of the area and Draper should also have done better after cleverly threading the ball through Rachita's legs, only to drag his effort past Riti and an upright.

Little had been seen of Steaia, apart from Militaru's fierce 25-yard free kick that forced over Oakes's crossbar. From nowhere, though, they suddenly found themselves 2-0 ahead in the space of three minutes.

First, Munteanu fed a pass through to Lăcătus, who looked suspiciously offside, and his cross was volleyed goalwards by Ciocciu from an

acute angle. The ball struck the post and rebounded against Oakes's arm before trickling into the net.

In the 31st minute, Villa fell further behind when Rotariu crossed from the right. Ciocciu, celebrating his 22nd birthday and in a game in which he had not been expected to start, was again unmarked and this time needed no such fortune. His delightful overhead kick, performed with precision and power, gave Oakes no chance.

Villa responded positively but frequently ran out of ideas when faced by Steaia's solid defence. After the interval they again pushed forward, but Nelson wasted a chance to centre, with Yorke, Wright and Milosevic waiting in the middle, when he slipped over. Villa also survived a scare when Scimca nudged Lăcătus over in the area, but the penalty appeals were ignored.

Villa were even more fortunate in the 52nd minute. Munteanu, aided by a deflection and unleashed a shot from an acute angle. It thumped against the bar, with Oakes comfortably beaten, before rebounding to safety.

In the next minute, Villa made the most of their let-off. Wright passed to Milosevic and his curling, left-foot cross fell perfectly for the unmarked Yorke, who headed into the corner of the net. Apart from the small pocket of Villa fans, the stadium fell silent.

STEAIA BUCHAREST (2-0-2) Z Riti — K. Căk, V. Rădulescu, I. Mă — L. Popescu, I. Rotariu, E. Lăcătus (sub L. Hău, 60min), C. Munteanu, D. Lăcătus, M. Lăcătus, C. Ciocciu (sub M. Lăcătus, 78).

ASTON VILLA (2-1-1) D. Draper — U. Ehiogu, S. Scimca, D. Scimca, F. Nelson, (sub G. Charles, 60), M. Draper, I. Taylor, A. Wright — D. Yorke — S. Collymore, S. Williams.

Referee: M. Lăcătus (Romania).

FA bans Petit for one more match

By Our Sports Staff

EMMANUEL PETIT, the Arsenal midfielder player, was yesterday fined £1,000 and given a further one-match ban for laying his hands on Paul Durkin, the referee, during the FA Carling Premiership match against Aston Villa last month.

The suspension will not apply until December 15, which means Petit can play in Arsenal's matches against Liverpool, Newcastle United and Blackburn Rovers, but not against Wimbledon.

The pony-tailed Frenchman was sent off by the Portland-based official for putting his hands on him in the final minutes of the goalless home draw with Villa.

Durkin said after the match that Petit had been dismissed for "violent conduct", leading to an automatic three-match ban this month.

Petit, who was charged by the Football Association with misconduct, pleaded guilty at a disciplinary hearing at Lancaster Gate yesterday.

He will return from the three-match ban for the home game against Liverpool on Sunday. Arsenal will also welcome back Dennis Bergkamp from suspension and are hopeful that Ray Parlour will have recovered from a knee injury sustained against Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday.

However, Arsenal may face further disciplinary problems. Ian Wright, the England striker, needs one more caution to qualify for an automatic three-match suspension.

LONG distance calls, UP TO 66% CHEAPER than BT?

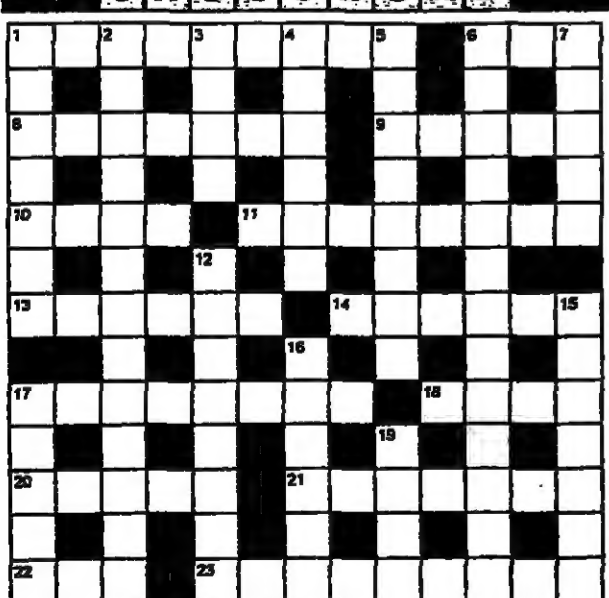
THINK st

STANDARD RATE	ST
1st	37p
2nd	30p
3rd	25p
4th	20p
5th	15p

If you've got a BT phone, you can make big savings to over 250 countries by adding First Telecom's service to it. Think first, before you make another long distance call.

FIRST TELECOM
0800 458 6666.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1261

- ACROSS
- 1 Leninist (9)
 - 6 Haut, coarse fibres (3)
 - 8 Toulouse — Paris painter (7)
 - 9 Courage, audacity (5)
 - 10 Warm Alpine wind (4)
 - 11 Unwanted post (4,4)
 - 13 Be reluctant to leave (6)
 - 14 Directed; fished (6)
 - 17 A damned, a pathetic person (4,4)
 - 18 Deliberate insult (4)
 - 20 Horse attendant: one muzzling (5)
 - 21 Skill: gallantry (7)
 - 22 Tibetan beast (3)
 - 23 Bad reputation (9)
- DOWN
- 1 Menacing, malignant (7)
 - 2 Object of derision (8,5)
 - 3 Fling (4)
 - 4 Clean (carpet); empty state (6)
 - 5 Monster ape (1933 film) (4,4)
 - 6 Deliberately overlook (4,1,5,3)
 - 7 Part of car: pivoting movement (5)
 - 12 One from Principality (8)
 - 15 Claude — Fr. composer (7)
 - 16 Glove toy (6)
 - 17 Having long limbs (5)
 - 19 Uneventful person (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1260
ACROSS: 1 Pavilion 5 Bats 9 Discard 10 Irons 11 Ball 12 Average 14 Ignite 16 Run out 19 Fatigue 21 Ball 24 Stump 25 Thimble 26 Rope 27 Boundary
DOWN: 1 Pads 2 Vista 3 Leaflet 4 Ordeal 6 Avocado 7 Suspects 8 Wide 13 Diffuser 15 No trump 17 Umbrian 18 Gzento 20 Gape 22 Libra 23 Dery

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS — SPECIAL OFFER:
The Times Two Crossword Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) when you order from The Times Bookshop. The Times Two Crossword Book 3 contains 100 puzzles, with solutions, and is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) when you order from The Times Bookshop. The Times Two Crossword Book 3 contains 100 puzzles, with solutions, and is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) when you order from The Times Bookshop.

The Times Two Crossword Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) when you order from The Times Bookshop. The Times Two Crossword Book 3 contains 100 puzzles, with solutions, and is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) when you order from The Times Bookshop.